Z BROADWAY

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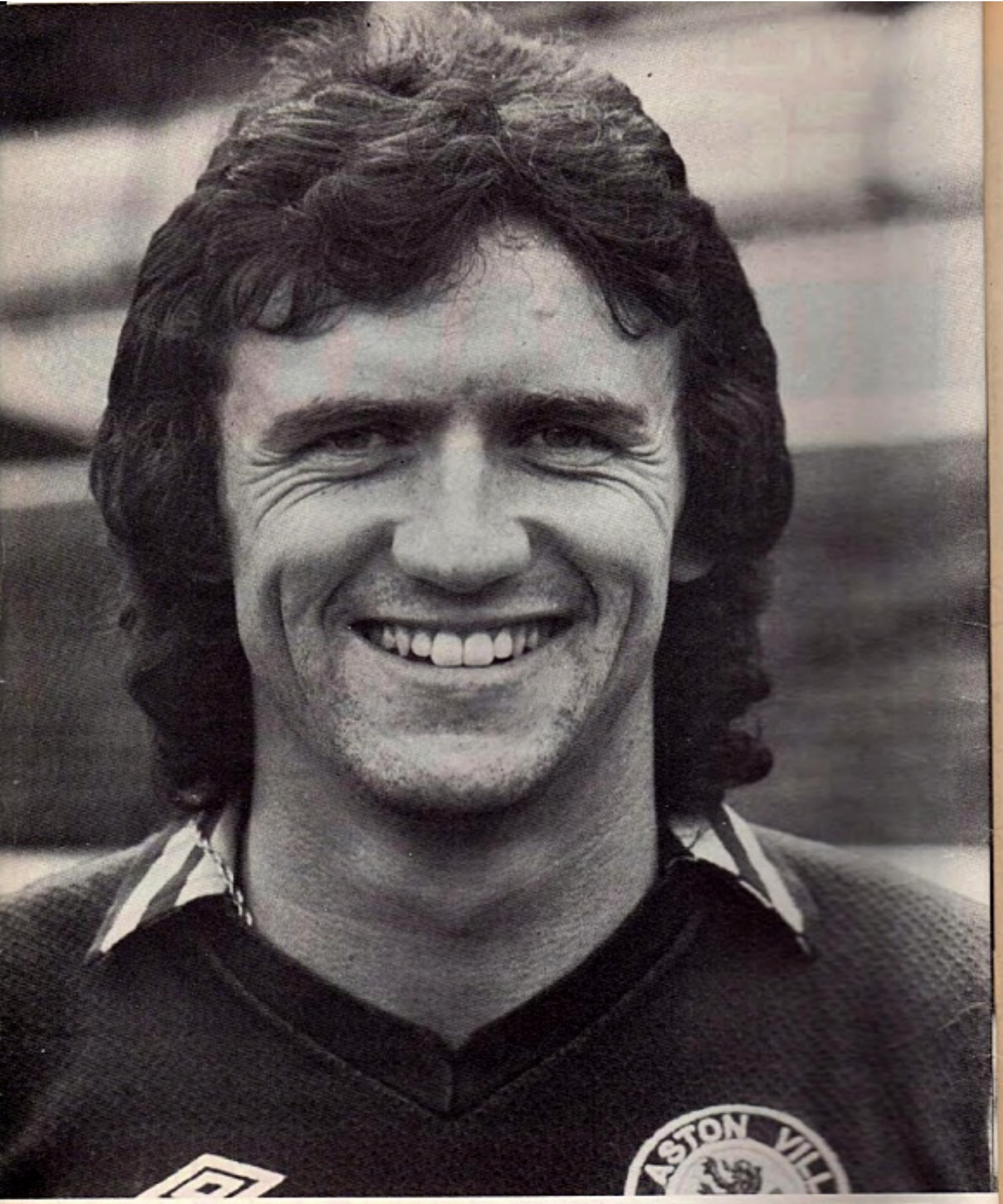
WORLD SOCCER

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

HUNGARY

Back row left to right: Gujdar, Kereki, Martos, Torok, Kocsis, Toth, Meszaros. Front row: Torocsik, Fazekas, Balint, Pinter, Zombori, Pusztai, Nyilasi, Varadi, Nagy.

FULL COLOUR SCOTLAND TEAM PICTURE INSIDE



JOHN GIDMAN Aston Villa

World SOCCER

Malcolm Macdonald of Arsenal, celebrating his club's first goal against Orient.

ARSENAL TIPPED TO BEAT IPSWICH

NOT surprisingly, Arsenal are favourites to beat Ipswich Town in the FA Cup Final at Wembley on May 6. Arsenal, challenging Everton to finish runners-up to Nottingham Forest in the First Division championship race, have emerged as one of the most exciting teams of the 1977-78 campaign.

Ipswich, meanwhile, have done well to reach Wembley despite a succession of injuries to key players. Even now it is doubtful whether they will be at full strength against Arsenal, who will face selection problems of a different kind.

An injury to Alan Sunderland gave Alan Hudson the chance to establish a place in the side. So well did Hudson grasp the opportunity that he also found himself back in favour with England. But Sunderland, signed from Wolves, might regain his place, either at the expense of Hudson or Graham Rix.

Arsenal success this year has been built around a fluid midfield, featuring Liam Brady, David Price, Rix and Hudson. Rix, slight of build, is a beautifully creative player with delightful touches but Sunderland's strength near goal may give him the edge.

Brady has been Arsenal's outstanding player but he enjoyed good support. Arsenal were justifiably criticised for their dour play when winning the "double" but even their most ardent critics must now concede they are a side to be admired.

Ipswich, appearing in their first final, will not mind starting as underdogs. If Kevin Beattie, missing for so much of the season, is fit; if Trevor Whymark returns, Ipswich will fancy their chances. And why not? Whymark and Paul Mariner are a match for any pair, even Malcolm Macdonald and Frank Stapleton.

So many recent finals have been disappointing games. Perhaps this one will prove the exception.

Ipswich Town's Kevin Beattie (left) and Clive Woods after their victory over West Bromwich Albion.

Holland leave out Cruyff

THE PROSPECTS of Johan Cruyff putting off his retirement to appear in the World Cup took a dramatic dive when Holland boss Ernst Happel announced his preliminary squad of 40.

The Barcelona captain — 31 on April 25 — was the only member of the team beaten 2-1 by West Germany in 1974 not named.

So it seems that even the New York Cosmos dollars, whatever they may have done for Pele and Franz Beckenbauer, have been unable to tempt the Flying Dutchman to change his mind about that long-decided retirement at the end of the current Spanish season.

While soccer fans all over the world will be disappointed, Happel is making the best of the situation. He said: "Our 4-0 win over Tunisia convinced me we can manage without Cruyff. It's not the score — but rather the way the team played."

Holland, whom Cruyff led to victory over Belgium, Northern Ireland and Iceland in the qualifiers, are grouped in Argentina with Scotland, Peru and Iran.

Meanwhile, regarding that other great absentee — or absentee great — Franz Beckenbauer, the West German authorities, the DFB, said they were willing to reopen negotiations for his release from New York Cosmos after the 1-0 defeat by Brazil.

However, since Cosmos wouldn't countenance Beckenbauer spending several weeks settling in to the world champions' squad before the finals, this new effort seemed doomed to failure.

WORLD SOCCER

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Editor: PHILIP RISING
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FRONT COVER PICTURE

Hungary are the team featured on our front cover this month, and of course we have a special team group of Scotland across our centre pages.

NEXT MONTH World Soccer presents a special World Cup issue, previewing the 1978 finals in Argentina. It's an issue you will not want to miss so to avoid disappointment place a regular order with your newsagent. The July issue of World Soccer will include reports, pictures and background stories from Argentina. Keith Radnedge leads the World Soccer team in Argentina, and will be joined by the Buenos Aires based Eric Weil, Eric Batty, Paul Gardner and top soccer writer Brian Glanville. Photographer Peter Robinson will supply the pictures.

Speaking Personally

...by LESLIE VERNON

Thompson — and that League Cup penalty...

SUB-JUDICE or not, the infamous 'Phil Thomson case' needs close attention. Not just because, perhaps, the reputation of a fine player is at stake, but chiefly because this intriguing affair highlighted in microcosm, the morality of modern football, the role of television, the sanctity of referees, and the Janus-faced sporting Press.

For the benefit of those recently released from solitary confinement in the Scrubbs and for our foreign readers, let me recall the bare (at times full frontal) facts. In the 53rd minute of the keenly competitive League Cup Final replay, a perfect defence-splitting pass put the Nottingham Forest veteran, John O'Hare, clean through the Liverpool back-four.

As he was racing at full pelt with the ball at his feet, the desperately chasing Phil Thompson brought him down around the edge of the penalty area. Ref. Partridge awarded a penalty-kick, which was converted for the only goal of the match, by John Robertson. Nottingham Forest won the Cup, and Liverpool felt hard-done by, because Thompson was convinced that the offence was committed outside the box.

To underline his just (?) case, he foolishly admitted that he deliberately fouled O'Hare, knowing full well that a free-kick would have been less threatening than a forward with only the goalkeeper to beat. "It was a professional foul" he told the TV reporter minutes after the match on his way to the showers. (Thompson, not the interviewer!)

The Liverpool player also described referee Partridge's part in the decision as a "disgrace", and asserted that the linesman didn't know anything about it because he was standing stock still with his flag across his chest.

The day after this illuminating cross-talk, all hell broke loose. Thompson was accused of calculated gamesmanship, and although TV cameras seemed to indicate that this heinous crime was in fact committed outside the box, Partridge's decision was described as a "moral penalty" — a totally new concept *vis-a-vis* the laws of football.

I have no intention to whitewash Thompson, and the F.A. are quite correct in charging him 'with bringing the game into disrepute' — for criticizing the referee! And that is exactly the crux of the matter, the open acceptance of the rotten state of football.

It is wrong to say "boo" to an official, but kicking a player deliberately, using all the dirty tricks in the book, is merely being "professional". In my view, Thompson's post-match remarks were honest but ill-conceived.

Firstly, if he considers himself a true "professional", he ought to know the rules which govern his profession — if a linesman stands in line with the edge of the penalty box, and his flag points towards the goal, he is indicating to the referee that the offence was committed *inside* the box.

Secondly, a player must never admit in public that he deliberately fouled an opponent, because he implicates himself in an act of bad sportsmanship. But the hypocritical outcry for Thompson's head was just as sickening as the player's behaviour, if not more so — after all, he did wrong in the heat of the moment, not sitting in front of a typewriter on the morning after! "Professional" fouls are committed match after match, every day of the week.

Players are drilled into it, they are programmed by their coaches, by a system and a philosophy which insists that winning by any means is the name of the game. Playing football is a question of habit, there is very little time to think — nowadays when a defender is beaten by an opponent, he feels that he must stop him or he'll be branded as a mug.

Only last week at the Arsenal v Manchester United match, I counted four "deliberate" offences — handballs by Young and Hudson, grabbing a leg by Brian Greenhoff, and body-checking by Sammy Nelson. There were no bookings, no post-game interviews, no national scandal, no charges of "bringing a disreputable game" into . . . into what?

Why not? Because it is the accepted norm in every club, even boys of 15 are coached to do it! If for instance in that League Cup Final, a Liverpool player would have been in the same position as O'Hare was, Lloyd or Anderson would have bought him down with the very same clinical deliberation. Who is holier than thou?

National disease

And this isn't merely a national disease, it is a world-wide sickness. Let's look at just one day's Press comments: David Miller in the *Daily Express* (April 6) on the W. Germany v Brazil game: "What must cause alarm for FIFA was the way Brazil used every trick in the book to stop German wingers, Abramczik and Rummenigge. Amaral, Brazil's centre-back, should have been sent-off after 65 minutes for grabbing Flohe round the waist when he was clean through, but he was not even booked".

And Brazil are supposed to be the finest exponents of classical, 'pure' football! Perhaps Thompson should apply for a Brazilian passport, and then he won't be branded as a bigger cheat than anybody else.

And here is Jef Powell's dispatch concerning yet another chapter of the continuing football war between Italy and England. The dateline was Rome. U-21 international. "Young England had their revenge on the Italians who kicked them to pieces in Manchester . . . Sims' tackle on the gifted Paulo Rossi, the million-pound man, was not pretty to watch. It earned Sims a booking — but it thoroughly discouraged the opposition's most dangerous forward. After the way the Italians behaved in the first leg at Maine Road a month ago, there were few qualms about repaying them in kind."

Potent player

Oh yes, 'discouraging' the opposition's most potent player is part of the scene, not just in Powell's book (in fact he is to be congratulated in spotlighting it) but in the real world of big-time football.

Unscrupulous Italians, over-tough Britons, waistgrabbing Brazilians, not forgetting the mayhem provided by the Spaniards and the Yugoslavs in their annual punch-up. Is it any wonder that in this poisoned climate, Phil Thompson had no scruples about committing just one more unsporting act?

"The ref. cannot play around with the laws," he insisted grotesquely. "I fouled O'Hare outside the box, he can't push the line backwards and forwards." What a sad farce! A poor, misguided player, who openly admits a deliberate foul, accuses the referee for monkeying with the rules! No blame can be attached to Pat Partridge.

He was running a few yards behind the action, saw the offence, saw O'Hare's body well inside the box, and saw the flag pointing goalwards. He couldn't be 100 per cent sure, but he had to decide without the aid of slow-motion replays, and on the balance of probabilities, he had to award a penalty.

Football, as a popular game, reflects society, its values, its virtues, its concept of justice. There is no hope of changing society overnight, but the game can be, and must be, cleaned-up. Not by sweeping the dirt under the carpet, as Alan Hardaker advocates when he seeks to ban after-match interviews.

Not by managers like Ron Saunders, who had this to say when his full-back John Gidman was sent-off in Barcelona. "He didn't deserve to be sent-off, because he never connected when he aimed a kick at an opponent." (No, he wasn't joking! Saunders doesn't know, or chooses to ignore the law, which states that "to kick or attempt to kick an opponent is a sending-off offence").

What FIFA, UEFA and all other officials hiding behind the cloak of those capital letters must do, is to 'legalize' the "moral penalty" and outlaw the professional foul. An offence committed anywhere on the pitch, which in the referee's opinion should be penalized with a penalty, should be punished so — in that case, at least, the punishment would fit the crime!

Deliberate foul

And for a deliberate foul — as it is done now in Hungary — a player should be immediately sent-off. If that was "the norm", players like Thompson wouldn't be conditioned to commit these hideous offences, the problem would disappear overnight. A simple circular from the Referees' Association would do the job of getting rid of at least one cancer which is slowly destroying the credibility of the game, and the faith of the public in it.

Let me give the final word to dear old Sam Bartram, the ex-Charlton goalkeeper, who made 583 League appearances for the South London club in the period 1934-56,— not counting war-time games. In a recent letter to the Sunday People, he says: "To call the sort of thing Thompson did a "professional foul" is an insult to everyone like me who was proud to be a professional footballer".

LIVERPOOL OF COURSE

IT'S GOT to be Liverpool.

However willing, or determined, the Belgian champions may be, I just cannot see Liverpool allowing themselves to come unstuck at Wembley for a third successive occasion.

Beaten there in last year's FA Cup Final by Manchester United, held fortuitously by Nottingham Forest in this season's League Cup Final, the big Wembley atmosphere should this time see their triumph.

And, after all, the 100,000 West London stadium has always been a lucky one for English teams in international finals. England won the World Cup there, West Ham won the Cup-winners' Cup there, and Manchester United won the Champions' Cup there . . . exactly 10 years ago.

All this isn't to underrate the Belgians.

After all, you don't get this far in Europe's premier club competition without reason. And they've not had it easy.

Admittedly, beating Kuopio Palloseura wasn't difficult in the first round, but after that they faced a trio of former Champions' Cup runners-up in Panathinaikos (1971), Atletico Madrid (1974) and Juventus (1973).

They are unfashionable opponents for Liverpool, but the Anfield army won't take them lightly. They will remember that in the 1976 UEFA Cup Final Brugge were actually 2-0 ahead at Anfield inside quarter of an hour in the first leg!

That Liverpool battled back to win the game 3-2, and then held out for a 1-1 draw in Belgium is neither here nor there. The fact is, Liverpool know they will have a match on their hands.

There are no great names in the Brugge line-up, but a sound team.

Denmark's Birger Jensen has proved a sound goalkeeper, and skipper Alfons Bastijns and Austrian World Cup sweeper Edy Krieger are reliable defenders. In midfield they have Belgium's most consistent player of the season in Julien Cools, and the lively Rene Vandereycken.

Up front the redoubtable Raoul Lambert continues. His veteran status and injury-prone nature means he tends to play one game and miss two, but it will need a major catastrophe to prevent him lining up at Wembley. One of Lambert's dreams had always been to win the Champions' Cup, and now he is within one game of making that come true.

But somehow I can't see it. Liverpool's machine has been much criticised this season, but they are still up around the top four as I write and they are, after all, reigning champions in Europe.

Ray Clemence has had a poor season by his standards, but Brugge have no one who can smash free kicks quite like Rainer Bonhof. And, since Roger Van Gool's departure to Köln two years ago, they are probably a little short on wing speed to take them round Liverpool's so-solid defence, founded on the rocks of Phil Thompson, Tommy Smith and skipper Emlyn Hughes.

In Liverpool and Brugge we have two clubs whose strength lies in their teamwork. The difference could be made by the man who stepped into Kevin Keegan's boots for £440,000, and is now set to follow in his medal tracks. Scotland's impish Kenny Dalglish, who made one and scored one in the second leg against Borussia, could well prove to be the match-winner and point Liverpool towards the hat-tricks achieved by Ajax and Bayern.

Liverpool (probable): Ray Clemence — Phil Neal, Phil Thompson, Tommy Smith, Emlyn Hughes (capt) — Jimmy Case, Ray Kennedy, Terry McDermott, Graeme Souness — Kenny Dalglish, Steve Heighway.

Brugge (probable): Birger Jensen — Alfons Bastijns (capt), Edy Krieger, Georges Leekens, Jozef Volders — Rene Vandereycken, Daniel Deckbiter, Julien Cools — Jan Simoen, Raoul Lambert, Jan Sorensen.

— KEIR RADNEDGE

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Semi-finals — first legs

Borussia Moenchengladbach 2 (Hannes 28, Bonhof 88)
Liverpool 1 (Johnson 87)
HT: 1-0. Ref: Emilio Guruceta Muro (Spain). **Att:** 66,000.
Borussia chose to switch this tie to Dusseldorf, to make the most out of the clash of last year's finalists. But neither side went in entirely happy with life.

Borussia had, the previous week, travelled all the way to Buenos Aires and back for the first leg of the world club cup, while Liverpool had been controversially beaten by Nottingham Forest in the League Cup Final replay. Borussia, handicapped by the hamstring injury which robbed them of Danish European Footballer of the Year, Allan Simonsen, nearly scored first. A Jupp Heynckes header bounced off Tommy Smith for a corner.

After eight minutes Liverpool showed that they hadn't come merely to defend, and skipper Emlyn Hughes forced a good save from Wolfgang Kleff who then tipped a Kenny Dalglish shot over the bar.

At the other end Heynckes twice went close with two more headers before, in the 20th minute, Karl Del 'Haye pushed back a corner for the one-eyed defender, Wilfried Hannes, to hit past Ray Clemence.

Wingers Lienen and Del'Haye now began to outpace Liverpool on the wings, yet though Ray Kennedy seemed to be losing touch in midfield, Terry McDermott came close to an equaliser after a Hughes through pass.

Almost on the hour Heynckes sent yet another header against a post, and that prompted Liverpool to make the vital substitution of David Johnson for McDermott. With three minutes to go the former Ipswich man beat Berti Vogts to a centre to head Liverpool level — only for Rainer Bonhof to rocket a free kick past Clemence in the next minute — repeating the scene when Bonhof hit West Germany's winner against England a few weeks before.

Borussia manager Udo Lattek said: "We didn't do enough. Now we'll have our backs to the wall in Liverpool." Liverpool boss Bob Paisley complained that the corner before the first goal should have been a goal kick, and that Phil Thompson had been fouled before he committed the handling offence which led to Bonhof's winning free kick.

Juventus 1 (Bettega 81)
Brugge 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Jean Dubach (Switzerland). **Att:** 70,000.
All along Juventus, the UEFA Cup holders, had been seen as major challengers to Liverpool. But they made extremely hard work of beating the mobile, intelligently-organised Belgians.

Graeme Souness of Liverpool.

Brugge relied mightily on the offside trap, and time and again caught Bettega and Boninsegna — the two Roberts — in no man's land. Indeed, in one Brugge attack young Jan Sorensen forced a sharp save from Dino Zoff. At the other end Causio sent Boninsegna clear, but his shot flew just wide.

In the second half the Italians pressed forward with more determination and the Belgians began to tire. The substitution of Antonio Cabrini for Giuseppe Furino brought more fire to the Juventus offensive, and with 10 minutes to go Boninsegna beat Birger Jensen, only for the goal to be disallowed because of offside.

Moments later Gaetano Scirea came racing up from his position as sweeper, beat three men on the left and chipped the ball square. Causio pushed it back and Bettega finally scored.

Juventus were home, but far from dry.

Semi-finals — second legs

Liverpool 3 (Kennedy 5, Dalglish 20, Case 54)
Borussia Moenchengladbach 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Karoly Palotai (Hungary). **Att:** 51,500
Liverpool win 4-2 on agg.
Liverpool become the first British club to reach the Champions' Cup final two years in succession when they easily swept aside the injury-hit Germans.

Borussia arrived at Anfield knowing hamstring victim Allan Simonsen stood no chance of playing, with Herbert Wimmer doubtful — he did play — and defender Klinkhammer ruled out after a twist in training.

And it didn't take Liverpool long to take advantage. After only six minutes Graeme Souness sent a fine curving through ball which Ken Dalglish switched to the far post for Kennedy to head in.

Borussia came forward and Jupp Heynckes had a header saved by Ray Clemence, while Carsten Nielsen lobbed too high. But at the other end Kennedy returned the compliment by making Liverpool's second for Dalglish.

The Germans won a corner as they pressed forward at the start of the second half, but they seemed to possess little confidence or determination and after Wolfgang Kleff did well to save from Kennedy, the Liverpool midfielder set up the third goal for Jimmy Case. It was all over for Borussia.

Brugge 2 (Bastijns 3, Vandereycken 115)
Juventus 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ulf Ericsson (Sweden). **Att:** 35,000
Brugge win 2-1 on agg (after extra time).
An unpleasant, bad-tempered game ended with victory for the underdogs against a Juventus upset beforehand by injury and then by the shock of a third-minute goal from Brugge skipper, Alfons Bastijns.

The Italian champions reacted sharply and angrily, but despite radiated by Roberto Bettega and Romeo Benetti, they couldn't pull back. Bettega shot too high after 25 minutes, and just before the interval forced a sharp save from Birger Jensen.

Brugge relied on the old Lion of Flanders, Raoul Lambert, and the speedy raiding of Danish winger Jan Sorensen. But Lambert, hurt after an unpunished penalty area sandwich, did not reappear for the second half.

Gentile had been booked early on and Swedish referee Ulf Ericsson had more yellow cards for Benetti and Krieger as Brugge gradually regained control. In the 63rd Cools set up a chance which Gino Maes, on as sub for Lambert, narrowly missed, then Jensen saved well for Benetti and the game went into extra time.

Here the Belgians continued slightly on top and with six minutes remaining Gentile was sent off after deliberate handball. One minute more and Rene Vandereycken rammed a Sorensen centre past Zoff and in off the bar. Brugge had become the first Belgian club to reach the Champions' Cup Final.

"I know we could make it," said manager Ernst Happel afterwards. "But we were a bit lucky in extra time."

European Cup Final—Wembley—May 10

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Brazil favourite
Spain should q

BRAZIL are the big favourites to win the competition but for the first time in a World Cup staged in South America, the Brazilians look as if they might have problems.

First of all they are unhappy about playing their first three games at Mar del Plata where the playing surface is little more than 60 metres wide, and obviously not to the liking of a team that tries to play attacking football. The narrower the pitch, the smaller the spaces between defenders, and drawn in a group with three European teams, the Brazilians do not like the tight-marking they expect from Spain, Sweden and Austria.

Adding to their problems, the weather expected in Mar del Plata while they are there is wet and cold, not exactly the kind of weather the Brazilians would choose.

Going back twenty years I remember that in Sweden in 1958, it rained for three solid days before the Final against Sweden, and everyone was mumbling that it was being stacked against Brazil. On that occasion they rose above the conditions and for the first time, and only time to date, a World Cup was won by a team from another continent.

But the present Brazilian team cannot be compared to the Djalma Santos, Didi, Zito, Garrincha, Vava, Zagalo outfit they had in Sweden, with boy Pele apparently just as good on the wet as he was back in Santos.

Brazilian boss Claudio Coutinho is as worried about the conditions as he is about meeting Europeans, though fortunately for him there is not a first class team amongst their opponents.

Critics

However, writing just before the Brazilians' trip to Europe it seems that Coutinho is bowing to the critics and replacing right winger Gil and centre forward Roberto. Though the reasons may be valid I cannot see that chopping and changing a successful team with only around 60 days to go, is going to do Brazil any good.

Right winger Gil has, it is true, scored only one goal in more than a year but Roberto was far more successful. The centre forward's critics claim that he lacks skill and finesse, but so did Vava, and as long as he was getting goals, I would have thought that a 'Vava' amongst the talented players was no bad thing.

Vava was only a tank-type but surrounded by skilful players he provided the much needed punch that gave the side balance, and in my view, Roberto was doing the same.

Though Roberto has been out of form with his club and scored very few goals of late, I lean to the view that if a man has done a good job for the national team, I would keep him until he shows that he has lost his touch at international level. Bringing in Reinaldo for the games immediately before the European

Argentina '78

tour may or may not work, but if Reinaldo shows that he doesn't like the more physical game played in Europe, Coutinho might later have to fall back on Roberto who will presumably not gain the benefit of playing in Europe.

Zagalo took over very late in 1970 and made important changes to the team and won the World Cup for Brazil, but then the circumstances were different. Until Zagalo appeared, Brazil were still playing 4-2-4 which was the primary reason for their failure four years earlier in 1966. Zagalo's 1-3-3½-2½ team was exactly the right blend, not only for Mexico and the conditions, but also for the players at his disposal and for meeting Europeans.

With Rivelino a bit too old to play the half and half game that suited his talents in 1970, Coutinho appears to have settled on Zagalo's system, bringing in Dirceu late in 1977 to play the left wing and drop back.

Dirceu looked very good when I saw him, and is just the right age to do well but Coutinho appears to be rocking his boat unnecessarily too late in the game by replacing Gil and Roberto.

Immediately before they set off for Europe, Zico, hailed as the 'white Pele' has been scoring most of the Brazilian goals from midfield and though events may prove me wrong, it looks at this time as if Coutinho is relying too heavily on him for goals.

Example

However, in the first round matches Brazil should not have too much trouble with either Sweden or Austria, and how they win will determine whether or not Coutinho makes changes during the competition.

Sweden for example will rely heavily on their defence in which goalkeeper Ronnie Helbstrom will need to be at his very best. Bjorn Nordquist, set to create a new World record number of caps with 106 at the end of the 1977 is now 34, and being only a part-timer in Sweden his fitness must be suspect.

Playing behind the defence as Nordquist does is no great strain on a good player who knows what the game is about, but both his full backs are young and relatively inexperienced.

Tactically, Sweden are almost sure to play 1-3-4-2 with their 1974 star Ralf Edstrom in midfield. Edstrom is not half the player he was four years ago, quitting PSV Eindhoven and the professional circuit when still only 25 apparently because he dislikes the demanding life of a professional.

Edstrom's record is 15 goals in 31 games, but significantly he failed to score an international goal in 1977 and even the two most likely front men failed during 1977.

Striker

Centre forward Thomas Sjoberg is rated very highly with Malmo FF and played in all Sweden's ten matches of 1977 but significantly scored only twice. The second striker looks likely to be Benny Wendt, a professional in West Germany but though a strong runner and good in the air, short on skill. In five games alongside Sjoberg last year, Wendt scored only once.

On last year's form there are not many goals forthcoming from midfield either. Alongside Edstrom, the new star Anders Linderoth (formerly with Oster IFK but now a pro in France with Marseille) has scored only twice in his 25 games, while Conny Torstensson, ex-Bayern and now with FC Zurich failed to score in his last five internationals.

With goals so clearly hard to come by, it is little wonder that Georg 'Aaby' Ericsson is sending his men out to pack midfield and play only on the counter attack.

Austria are not quite so defensive but when I saw them in 1977 they did not look at all impressive. They also play 1-3-4-2 and were unbeaten in 1977 though this was largely due to the fact that they did not play any of Europe's stronger teams.

Team manager Helmut Senekowitsch is better off up front than his Swedish counterpart in having Hans Krankl the golden boy from SC Rapid who knocked in six against little Malta in Salzbourg. But though Krankl is coveted by half the teams in West Germany, and looks good against inferior opposition, I wonder how he will get on against better defenders.

If you take away the 9-0 win over Malta, then Austria's 1977 record is 8 goals for and 3 against in 7 games which suggests that they too are short of goal-scoring power.

On paper, Krankl and Willi Kreuz of Feyenoord look a likely pair, though each man got only one goal in internationals in 1977 if one excepts the Malta affair.

Another player highly thought of in Wien is midfield general Herbert Prohaska, of FK

es and qualify

GROUP THREE

AUSTRIA SWEDEN
SPAIN BRAZIL

JUNE 3: Sweden v Brazil ..... Mar Del Plata
Spain v Austria ..... Buenos Aires (Velez)
JUNE 7: Spain v Brazil ..... Mar Del Plata
Austria v Sweden ..... Buenos Airs (Velez)
JUNE 11: Brazil v Austria ..... Mar Del Plata
Sweden v Spain ..... Buenos Aires (Velez)

by
ERIC BATTY

Austria but when I saw him, though he undoubtedly has talent, he played as though his job was to wait for someone else to give him the ball, when he would do his stuff. With the team under pressure, the supply of the ball to Prohaska could quite easily be cut off, and I don't see him as the kind of player who will go back and get mixed up in the rough and tumble to get it for himself as a really good player would.

Ordinary

I didn't see Eddie Krieger (who is a fine player) of FC Bruges when I saw Austria but if he will undoubtedly stiffen the defence, and also come out into midfield now and again, I feel that Austria got through only with a lot of help from a very disappointing East Germany. The last time Austria visited Wembley they got a good seeing to from a quite ordinary England, suggesting that the Austrians do not like it when the game gets physical and I am sure that if they came to Wembley now they would be seen off in fine style.

That is no compliment to a team bound for Argentina, underlining the fact that FIFA's seeding with England and Italy in the same group with a lot of weaker groups didn't work out. England beat half the teams bound for Argentina, and Austria are one of many teams that I feel have no right to a place in the last sixteen.

More than half the teams going to Argentina are poor sides in my book and included amongst them are Sweden and Austria, which means that for all their problems Brazil will have only themselves and Claudio Coutinho to blame if they do not survive the first round.

Spain under Ladislav Kubala are a different proposition to Austria and Sweden and I expect them to qualify with Brazil.

Imports

Kubala has limited resources with which to play around and this applies particularly in attack with so many of the forward stars in Spain being imports. But while there are fitness doubts about the captain and *libero* 'Pirri' of Real Madrid, and his club-mate, left back Comacho, the strength of the Spanish team is in defence.

In fact, Spain's rearguard looks quite the best in Group Three and with help from the Madrid clubs, Kubala has put together an effective team, even if they do not play very attractively.

Atletico Madrid did Kubala a big favour by naturalising the Argentinian centre forward Ruben Cano, and Real Madrid provide two more forward stars in right winger Juanito and centre forward Carlos Alonso, unusually known by his birthplace 'Santillana' near Santander. Santillana has played very well in the current campaign and as I write is top scorer in the Spanish First Division.

Kubala has so far not used Santillana, preferring Ruben Cano but if the Real Madrid man is the Argentinian's deputy only thus far, Kubala might well try the striking pair together in his warm-up games.

Giving very little away at the back, Spain would look a far more likely proposition with a second striker up and there is no other eligible player available.

Despite all their problems I must take Brazil to see off Austria and Sweden who are two poor sides, leaving Spain to qualify with them. And Spain are dark horses if 'Pirri' is there, even stronger should Camacho recover in time, and likely to do well with a string of 1-0 wins.

Hans Krankl of Austria.

GROUP FOUR

HOLLAND
IRAN

SCOTLAND
PERU

JUNE 3:	Holland v Iran	Mendoza
	Peru v Scotland	Cordoba
JUNE 7:	Holland v Peru	Mendoza
	Scotland v Iran	Cordoba
JUNE 11:	Holland v Scotland	Mendoza
	Peru v Iran	Cordoba

Holland will miss Beveren

by Eric Batty

WHEN the World Cup draw was first made my immediate reaction was that Holland and Scotland would qualify, and though I still stand by that judgement, things are not looking as bright in either camp as they did three months ago.

Holland, for example, should have all the players available who did so well four years ago, but Johan Cruyff insists he won't go, even though the KNVB fell over backwards to help him, even suggesting that he went out to play only in the second stage, or that they would pay the expenses for his family to go with him.

There is a strong anti-Argentina feeling in Holland because of the Military Dictatorship that exists there and similarities have been drawn between Buenos Aires 78 and Berlin in 1936 when the Olympics were staged there. The upshot of it all is that Holland have lost the services of quite a few players who have decided as individuals that they will not go.

Perhaps the most important is Jan Van Beveren who, in my book, is quite the best Dutch goalkeeper. Piet Schrijers of Ajax I have never liked for despite his 15 caps he has looked hesitant when I have seen him, and that is one thing that good goalkeepers cannot afford to be.

Ernst Happel, the new manager (of FC Bruges) appears to share my view, and the chances are that Jan Jongbloed, now 37 and playing with Roda JC, will be the first choice 'keeper.

There has been talk in Holland of switching left-winger Robbie Rensenbrink into midfield to be the organiser in chief, but Rensenbrink himself doesn't like the idea, though with Johnny Rep on the right wing, and Rene Van der Kerkhoff well able to play on the left, the attack wouldn't suffer.

This has been put forward because none of the many available midfield players is a really first-class general with vision and skill. But midfield is the least of Holland's problems.

Apart from Johan Neeskens, who is now in his prime at 26 and apparently fully recovered from his operation, the Dutch have Willie Van der Kerkhoff, Wim Jansen (still a fine player), Jantje Peters, who played very well against England at Wembley and scored two fine goals, all available for midfield.

Happel is also clearly flirting with the idea of recalling Wim Van Hanegem who has been in and out of the Dutch team since 1974. However, when I saw Van Hanegem earlier in the season it was clear that he had lost none of his skill, and is still thinking sharp enough, but overall he lacks both pace and stamina.

At best, Van Hanegem could be used for short periods but I don't think they need him in midfield, and if he is going to play at all, I would think that the *libero* role would suit him best.

That would free Ruud Krol to go back to full-back where he could make a far bigger contribution to the team effort for he is four years younger than Wim Suurbier, who at 32, probably cannot puff up and down the sidelines as this pair did so well for Ajax not long ago.

With Wim Rijsbergen still there at stopper and Hugo Hovenkamp coming late into the international field at 27, but looking like an experienced campaigner, there should be no problems at the back.

Midfield looks very capable to me, and even if they don't have a big brain leader type like Cruyff, the combined play of good players can be just as effective overall.

The refusal of Ruud Geels, the Ajax centre-forward, to go to Argentina, is in my view a bigger blow than that of Cruyff for the Dutch have no other recognised spearhead of the necessary quality.

Barring Geels, the best man for the job that I have seen is Kees Kist of AZ '67, who is both skilful and a scorer. But so far Happel seems to be intent on finding a Geels type who is stronger and more direct.

Though the Dutch do have problems to solve there is no shortage of good players and they have one big plus in Ernst Happel.

One of the major qualities in any side is to have a good manager, well versed in the ways of winning at top international level. Rinus Michels did a great job in '74, and Happel's pedigree is as good as that of any boss bound for Argentina, going back to 1970, when, as boss of Feyenoord he first took the European Cup to Holland. Since then, he has kept FC Bruges in the forefront of the game in Belgium and always seen that they do well in European competitions, and not many sides have as good a manager as Holland.

This factor, having a manager who is thoroughly grounded in top level international competition is the one department where Scotland have a doubt. Ally MacLeod has done a good job for Scotland since he took over from Willie Ormond, declining to change their successful team, and keeping things ticking over much as they did before.

Scottish fans will no doubt be pleased with him, having led them to the 'double' — beating England at Wembley, and qualifying for the World Cup, but Scotland had an easy path to the finals against a Czech team that fell apart and were not even ghosts of the side that won the European Championship in 1976.

To me, McLeod has still to prove himself and I doubt if he has enough experience against the big guns of the World Game. This does not mean that Scotland will suffer for the players are still the men who have to do it, but a shrewd and experienced manager is a big plus, and MacLeod has not had enough time in the international arena to prove himself

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Argentina '78

one way or the other.

In what I feel is going to be a very poor World Cup from the viewpoint of top drawer football and real quality players, Scotland have a good chance to do well.

The loss of Danny McGrain was a real blow, for with Martin Buchan he was in my book one of the two World Class players available to Scotland, and no matter who stands in for him it will weaken the side considerably. There appears to be one basic difference of opinion between Ally MacLeod and myself, though this may not be so, and even if it is he could well change his mind if he sees enough of English football.

It cannot please many of the die-hard Scots who always wanted an all-tartan team, but the fact is that MacLeod must spend most of his time checking on players' form in England. And if he does then perhaps he will find a place in midfield for Archie Gemmill, who I feel he was likely to overlook in his preference for Don Masson, Bruce Rioch and Asa Hartford.

Gemmill is for me the best Scottish midfield player on current form, while problems have arisen over the others. Masson and Rioch have both had disappointing seasons as individuals though it probably doesn't help them or their confidence playing in a Derby team that looks unbalanced to me.

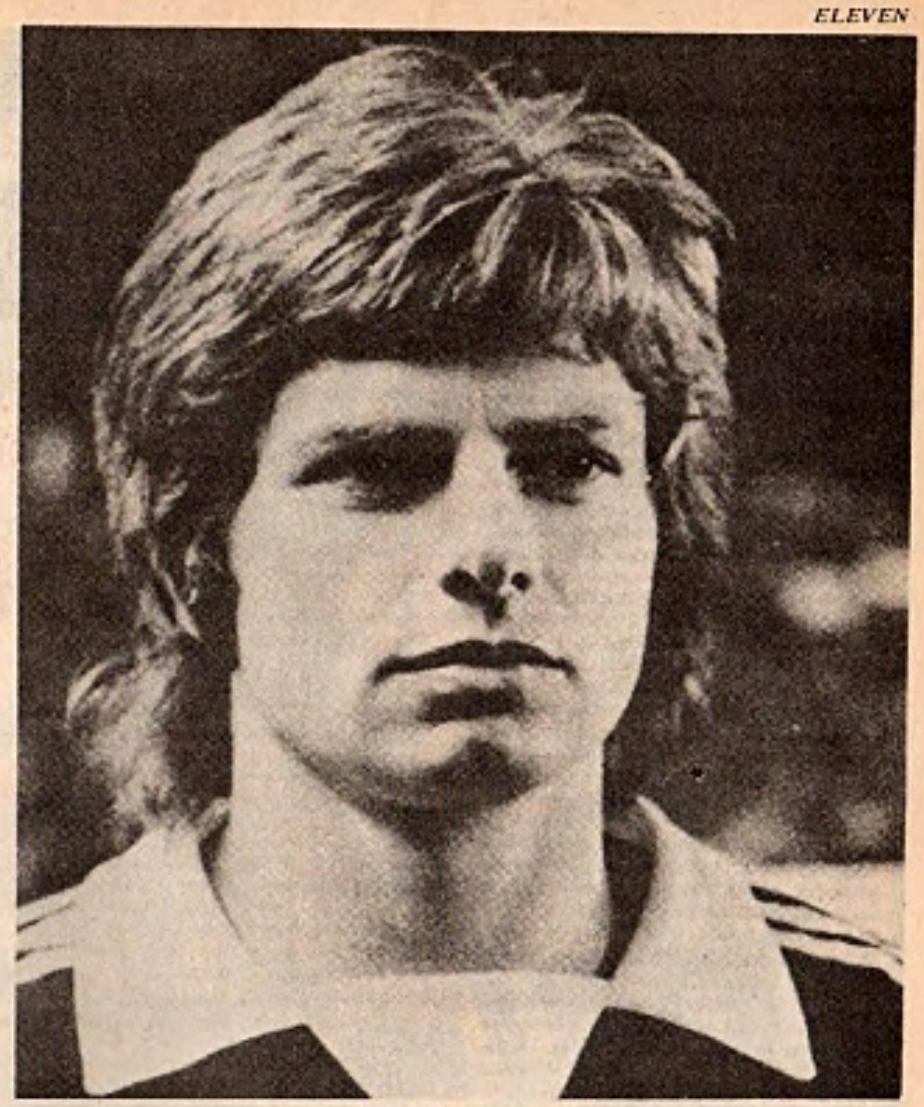
Gemmill also seems to have a better temperament for if Scotland have a big problem, I feel it is the inclination of some of their players to blow their stack and not only retaliate when fouled in an obvious and sometimes outrageous manner, but actually to provoke the rough stuff themselves.

Rioch and Hartford are the most suspect players in this respect and both will have to be on their best behaviour if, as in 1970 and 1974, FIFA issues directives to the referees not to look for 'intent' but what happened in fact. With Kenny Dalglish settling down so well at Liverpool he is now a far better front player than he was with Celtic. Until he moved, I always felt that he was at his best coming forward from deep positions but he seems to have adjusted his game very well at Anfield and can be expected to get amongst the goals in Argentina.

Willie Johnston is not often a scorer, but he works hard, with both pace and penetration, ploughing his furrows on both flanks to lay on chances for others. With wingers vital in the frame-work of a successful team today, a lot will depend on Johnston and he, like Rioch and Hartford, is a bit suspect in his temperament, when provoked.

But if Scottish players have gone off the boil this season, the move of Gordon McQueen and Joe Jordan to Manchester United does not seem to have done either player, or their new club much good.

Jordan can be a terrifying sight in full cry but is another player that will have to watch what he is doing most carefully. In particular his brushes with goalkeepers in the air could spark off trouble as well as bring goals to Scotland.



Willie Donachie

But having laid out the problems of Holland and Scotland, I don't see either side failing to reach stage two for Iran are obviously lacking the experience of the big occasion and a World Cup is a severe test for even the most battle-hardened players.

Iran have some useful players with Ali Parvin standing out in midfield and Hassan Rowshan the key man in attack. By the look of things they are going to play 1-3-4-2, which would be wise but if they have gone to considerable trouble to meet European teams in Teheran already, and are going to play against a variety of Europeans in April and May, I doubt if they can adjust themselves to play successfully above their own pace.

Pace will be the critical factor in their games against Holland and Scotland for if the players can adjust, it requires a lot of physical effort and such circumstances lead to players 'blowing out' in the second half. I can see Iran playing neat football and looking good for a while in each game, but I cannot see them doing it over three games in a week.

Peru seem to have so many problems that it is just conceivable that Iran could do well against them. For one thing their players have little or no experience against Europeans and could not get the top teams to meet them during their pre-World Cup tour.

Just as I have reservations about the experience of Ally MacLeod, I have the same feeling about Peru's Marcos Calderon, for more than ever before in a World Cup staged in South America, the European style is going to be the test for everyone, even in Argentina and Brazil.

Peru look the least well equipped in this sense, for though Hugo Sotil was a little devil with the ball at his feet in 1970, he never liked the hard training in Spain and his age to say the least is uncertain.

Age is the key to Peru for their best players, apart from Jose Velazquez are all looking 'over the top' and there is a clear choice between fielding the team that qualified (which would probably prove to be too old) and trying to build a new side around players like Teofilo Cubillas, Velasquez and Sotil that would inevitably lack experience.

I admired the Peru team in 1970 very much, but even then they were let down by a very bad defence and I cannot see them standing up this time to Holland and Scotland.

Iran should prove to be a nice 'little' team, and Peru could look good in flashes in attack, but overall both Holland and Scotland should be too strong for them and I cannot see the two European sides failing to qualify.

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

Doors open but...

THE decision of the Luxemburg Court which has thrown open all Common Market countries to footballers from fellow members may be less radical than it seems. What it means, in effect, is that the Football League can no longer exclude foreign players; and nor can the Italians. This caused a great fluttering of the dovecotes both in Rome and in Lytham St. Anne's. Alan Hardaker, Secretary of the Football League, told me he viewed it as a decision with dire consequences, though a European transfer system would be hammered out by the UEFA committee of which he himself was a member. The Italians cried blue murder, foreseeing a ghastly free for all in which the big rich clubs would gobble up every available foreigner in sight, block the way to young native talent, wind up their youth schemes, and generally undermine the Italian game.

Since then they have been singing another song, hoping that agreement can be voluntarily reached to subvert the EEC decision by limiting each club to one foreign player; not necessarily from the Common Market countries.

British fears must be twofold; that our own best players, the Trevor Francises and Peter Barnes, would take off for Italy, in particular; that our own clubs would fill up the places in their teams with players from abroad. The second contingency is most unlikely, given the stringency of our tax laws and the fact that though our top salaries are high, they cannot compare with what leading players earn in the richer Common Market countries. Once upon a time, a handful of famous European footballers came over here to play as amateurs because it diverted them to do so, but none of them stayed long.

There was the "Swiss Alp" Willi Steffen, at left-back for Chelsea thirty years ago and a little more. There was the Swedish international centre-forward Hans Jeppson, playing for Charlton. That, I suspect, is just about how it would be again after the gates were opened in the Common Market. Second line players would perhaps come; first line players wouldn't. But who wants second quality players?

As for the possibility of an unending flow of British players to Italy — even assuming that the Italians capitulate and allow more than one or two players a club after the ban ends in 1979 — are there really such fears? In the past, when the Italian League was open to foreigners, very few of our players went; and of those who did, few stayed very long. Denis Law and Joe Baker had had enough in 1962 after a single season in Turin. John Charles stayed there, it is true, and a lesser centre-forward, Gerry Hitchen, lived happily in Italy for years. But as Hardaker says, several of our players have tried Europe recently and come quickly back. Remember that there is nothing at all to stop our men earning far higher wages in Holland, West Germany (who has followed Keegan?), Spain, France and Belgium.

Perhaps the best propaganda our League could have had was Canuti's vicious elbow in the face of Peter Barnes at Manchester.

RUBEN CANO, Spain's centre-forward, scorer of the winning goal in that vital win over Yugoslavia in Belgrade, was asked how he would feel were he to score the winning goal against his native Argentina in the coming World Cup. He replied with impressive frankness that he would feel just as delighted as when he scored the winner against Yugoslavia.

What a farce these World Cups can still be! Cano is 26 years old, was born in San Rafael, in the province of Mendoza, played League football for them at 17, joined Atlanta of Buenos Aires for five seasons, and only then was brought to Spain by the old Argentinian World Cup skipper, Nestor Rossi, then manager of Elche. Two years and eighteen goals at Elche, then he was signed by Atletico Madrid.

He has a Spanish father, but for all practical purposes, he seems about as Spanish as Juan Peron. That a player who arrives fully mature in a foreign country be naturalised for the purposes of its domestic League is one thing. That he be permitted to play for the international side – not least when he has already been picked by his own country in "unofficial" matches – is surely and lamentably another.

Cano, meanwhile, has had some interesting things to say about the repugnant match in Belgrade. He puts the blame squarely on the shoulders of Ken Burns, the English referee. The ill intentions of the Yugoslavs were, says Cano, evident from the very kick off, when one of them steamed into Juanito in a "terrifying foul". Had Burns then manifested his authority or shown a yellow card, says Cano, things might have been very different. "But he let it go. And after two mintues they carted Pirri. And he let that go, as well."

GIGI PERONACE'S election to the role of public relations man for Italy in the coming World Cup made that volatile little Calabrian very happy, and had our old friend Italo Allodi spitting blood. It can't, as they say, be bad. Peronace has long been close to Enzo Bearzot, has long supported him. Allodi detests him. Though he turned the job down in 1974, there is no doubt that the Grey Eminence of Italian football, keeper, as I have said before, of so many strange secrets, feels he should have the job for himself; though God knows what qualification he has to occupy it. Meanwhile, it is equally obscure what background he has to entitle him to run the Centro Tecnico Federale, the coaching centre, in Florence, since there is no evidence that he has ever coached anybody in his life. Not, in any case, as to how they should play football.

That Peronace and Bearzot were displeased by the savage behaviour of some of the Italian defenders — Canuti and Galbiati in particular — at Manchester against our Under 21 side, was in a way heartening. I was greatly disappointed that a man I have long liked, the Under 21 manager Vicini, should let his men behave like that.

The trouble is that such excesses are bred in the bone of Italian football. My friend Bearzot reflects that the England v. Italy game at Wembley was a sporting and agreeable one. He seems to have, alas, forgotten the disgraceful fouls by Tardelli and the notorious Benetti on Keegan. Even a manager as honest and idealistic as Bearzot must perforce accommodate himself to the realities of his position. Benetti plays like a thug; even the Italian Press admits it.

But you can go back as far as the Battle of Highbury in 1934, when Italy lost the violent Argentinian centre-half Monti in the first two minutes, and thereafter went berserk, to find the same harsh characteristics. The Italian team which earlier that year won the World Cup under Pozzo — another Anglophile Italian manager whom I knew, liked and admired — made few friends in the process.

As that famous Belgian referee, John Langenus, said afterwards, it was natural that the Italians should want to win, but they made it a little too obvious. Certainly the methods they employed against Spain and Zamora at Florence, in the quarter-finals, were none too refined. Later in the year, at Arsenal Stadium.

Bearzot is wont to describe Benetti as a quiet canary fancier. So, off the field, he is. On the field, as the Italians themselves say, it's another pair of sleeves; or, as we say, another kettle of fish. One that frequently boils over.

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France celebrate their goal against Brazil.

Brazilian Press put on pressure

EVERYONE at some time or another has got into a taxi and soon wondered just what was the point and purpose of the journey. Had it not been for a decision to undertake such a ride as the only other alternative to a course of action clearly foolhardy — and a rather fierce dog sitting next to the driver — a quick exit might have yet ended the story.

The taxi was on the way to Viry-Chatillon, a Paris suburb where the Brazilians were training on the eve of their European tour debut against France at the Parc des Princes. Unfortunately neither the driver, the dog or the two other occupants namely Colin Malam of the Sunday Telegraph and myself knew exactly the location of the ground.

That the other course of action mentioned previously namely to visit the French in their training encampment at St. Germain sur Laye had had to be abandoned was merely a stroke of good fortune. They had in fact struck their tents and moved off to Rouen to watch the shadow squad beat Rumania 1-0 later that evening.

Rudy — that was the dog's name — was quiet while his master was in the driver's seat. It was only when he left the wheel that Rudy became unruly. Monsieur Le Cabbie frequently stopped to enquire of local inhabitants, once in the Viry area, the whereabouts of the local ground. Few of them knew it seemed. Admittedly the first was a young woman who was obviously not interested in any kind of sport, the next an elderly man who did not even hear the driver. Bututa garage a youth appeared to have some idea and when Rudy's barks were calmed again, the driver informed us that the venue was close at hand.

Sure enough at the bottom of a hill the tell-tale four floodlight pylons edged their way into the skyline above roof-tops and trees. This must be the place.

But the driver was taking no chances so close to the destination and insisted that we remained sitting inside the cab while he investigated. Rudy kept us on our toes during his absence but he returned within a few moments beaming in the manner of Stanley in Africa on that famous occasion which was exactly the reverse of "there's another fine mess . . ."

Third Division club Viry-Chatillon possess the kind of ground that a progressive non-league club might have in England. The exception was that there was a running track around it.

Just one or two people were wandering about the ground itself with its one small, but modern stand. But on the tartan track two tracksuited athletes were preparing for a work out while a third in singlet and shorts was jumping over a set of hurdles from a standing position.

On the far side a schoolmaster arrived followed by a class of small boys who proceeded to run round the track itself. While settling down to watch youth having its fling, the noise of motor vehicles outside caused a combined switch of viewing and soon through the entrance came the familiar light blue tracksuits of the Brazilian players.

Having had to hang around their hotel for 24 hours previously several of the players smiled a greeting as though we were familiar acquaintances. Then in came the dark haired, good looking trainer and real object of the visit, Claudio Peorgo de Moraes Coutinho, the man they say has the hottest seat in football — that possessed of Brazil's World Cup manager.

He came across to our small gathering, offered his hand, apologised for being unable to speak to us earlier and said that he would be pleased to answer questions after a light spell of training which would take about an hour.

Then up came a Dutch radio journalist Kees Jagers who had apparently arranged to interview Coutinho that day. The Brazilian manager agreed and said that perhaps it would be a good idea to do it now.

"In fact, if you prefer," he said to Colin and myself, "we can follow this up with your own interview".

"This is better really," said the 39-year-old Coutinho. "In an hour there will be 200 Brazilian journalists and no one will be able to get a word in."

The local press have been a constant problem to Coutinho in the year he has been in charge. Failure is something they cannot contemplate. And unfortunately, excellent fellows though they have proved to be as individuals when in conversation, the pressure put on Coutinho with stories which have included allegations that the Army is keeping him in the job and that military personnel are on the administrative staff are not conducive to a good relationship between manager and the media.

Coutinho, a European in looks and temperament, knows well enough that they are out to get him unless Brazil can reveal World Cup winning form. He discounts it as being directed at him personally.

"The rumours are put about to make confusion; to set one man against another," he added.

As to the fact that Mario Zagalo is waiting in the wings to receive the call again to take command, Coutinho discounted this one by saying: "It is my opinion that Zagalo does not want the job this time. After two years in Kuwait he is out of touch with Brazilian football.

"But if people must speculate about my successor they should look elsewhere. The man I would choose is Rubens — you spell it like the painter — Minelli. He is the best young coach in Brazil."

Coutinho as befits a former Army captain is upright, kind but firm and looked everyone straight in the eyes when speaking to them. At the age of 12 he was supposed to have been put in charge of the school football team — so clearly was he destined to be a coach.

He had gained most of the coaching fame later on as the man in charge of the 1976 Olympic squad which earned such an impressive record. I can recall Barry Davies the BBC TV commentator telling me at the time that Coutinho had told him that the Brazilian press would never allow anyone to run the national squad the way he wanted.

But not wishing to keep the subject at such a parochial level we reverted to questions concerning the England set-up.

"England have improved noticeably, particularly in midfield. They don't hit so many of those long passes out of defence these days," offered Coutinho.

They on to the World Cup with his small but interested audience voicing their own special teams among the finalists for consideration he replied: "I don't think Poland are quite as good as they were in 1974, but Scotland could turn out to be the Poles of 1978. That is the surprises."

I suggested that Hungary might do well but was told firmly: "No, they are too romantic and the defence does not appear good enough. I consider that the Austrians are a better proposition — in my opinion."

In fact it was comforting to learn from a World Cup team manager that it was only his humble view, after all the ear bashing one tends to receive in the course of a year from lesser lights who usually speak as though they had just come down from the mountains with the precious tablets of wisdom clutched under their armpits.

Continued on page 54

Jack Rollin talks to Claudio Coutinho

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1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Viva The Villa!

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Liverpool's Cup

1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Wonderful Wolves!

1973 FA CUP FINAL
Sunderland's Cup

1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Spurs v Norwich

1972 FA CUP FINAL
Leeds v Arsenal

1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Salute to Stoke!

1971 FA CUP FINAL
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1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
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WHO'S

The last instalment of KEIR RADNEDGE'S series featuring men to watch for in the World Cup Finals. This month: Piazza to Zoff.

OSWALDO PIAZZA (Argentina)

Piazza, the 30-year-old centre back who loves to attack, is one of the foreign players around whom so much controversy has developed in Argentina. Though it was known late last autumn that Cesar Menotti wanted Piazza in his squad, the Argentine FA incredibly omitted to make a written, official request for his release, to Piazza's French club, Saint-Etienne! That has since been put right, but too late for Piazza to fly home much before the start of the Finals. He joined Saint-Etienne from Lanus in 1972 where he had been a controversial, rebellious figure. He took some time to settle in France, even playing several games at outside right, before moving to stopper and becoming one of the best in Europe. He can proudly boast that Gerd Müller failed to score against Saint-Etienne in three vital European Cup ties.

PIRRI (Spain)

Full name Jose Martinez Sanchez, Real Madrid's sweeper and captain is their last link with the great days, for when he joined from Granada in 1965 Puskas, Santamaria and Gento were still at Chamartin. An enterprising, intelligent man, Pirri is a talented artist who has held several exhibitions, runs a TV showroom and is studying medicine for when his soccer career ends. His wife Sonia is a Spanish television personality. Born in Ceuta, North Africa, Pirri joined Madrid as an inside left, but was an attacking right half in the team who won the 1966 Champions' Cup. A month later he made his debut for Spain in the World Finals in England, scoring with a typically determined header against Argentina. Since then he has been Spain's most consistent player, despite a string of injuries and an offer from New York Cosmos. Pirri has now moved back to sweeper. Spain's manager Ladislao Kubala says Pirri will go to Argentina whether he's in the team or not – his influence over the rest of the players is so important.

MICHEL PLATINI (France)

The best player to come from France since Raymond Kopa — that's how Platini is being hailed as the 21-year-old Nancy-Lorraine midfield general steadily increases his reputation. Increases it to such an extent, indeed, that Inter-Milan have already paid £60,000 towards an eventual transfer. Plenty of foreign clubs have cast covetous eyes on Platini, who staggered the Italians in the recent international between the nations when he twice beat Dino Zoff with long-range free kicks. Yet it was only two years ago that he made his debut for France at senior level, scoring with an inevitable free kick against Czechoslovakia. He's had his share of injuries, but shrugged off cartilage trouble to captain France in the Montreal Olympics and claim a number of league hat-tricks — one recently when moved up to centre forward in an emergency. Platini's ambition? — "To win the World Cup with France".

VICTOR RANGEL (Mexico)

All Mexico breathed a sigh of relief last month when, after eight games in which his touch had deserted him, the Guadalajara 20-year-old finally slipped back into scoring form. Yet Rangel made his first division debut only just over a year ago after a distinguished youth international career which saw him starring in the 1974 Central American Games and Cannes tournament. He was top scorer in Cannes in 1975 and his goals took Mexico to the Panamerican title the same year. He played in the Montreal Olympics and made a thunderous entry into World Cup soccer in scoring a hat-trick against Haiti after appearing as a second-half substitute in the first match of the Concacaf play-off group. In 40 internationals at all levels Rangel has scored more than 50 goals.

ROB RENSENBRINK (Holland)

Now 29, it will be on the Anderlecht left winger that the Dutch rely for inspiration if Johan Cruyff maintains his refusal to appear in Argentina. Over the past four years Rensenbrink has been one of the most consistently outstanding forwards in Europe after making his name the hard way. Starting out with DWS Amsterdam, Rensenbrink went to Belgium in 1968 to join Brugge, leaving in exchange for Wilfried Puis of Anderlecht three years later. In his first season with Anderlecht they won the league and cup double, and he appeared in all but one of Holland's games in the 1974 Finals. Sadly a pulled muscle reduced his effectiveness against West Germany and he limped out of the game at half-time. His two goals took Anderlecht to the Cup-winners' Cup in 1976 — the same year he scored a European championship hat-trick against Belgium.

BRUCE RIOCH (Scotland

Born in Aldershot of Scottish parents, Scotland's captain has been in and out of trouble this season, both with referees and with his own manager at Derby, Tommy Docherty. A right-sided midfielder with a thundering left-foot shot, Rioch scored 24 times in 1967-68 to lift Luton out of the Fourth Division, and two years later was signed by Docherty for £100,000 for Aston Villa. Two cartilage operations soon after the move didn't help him settle, but in 1972 he was first called up for Scotland — by Docherty. Later he figured in big-money moves to Derby, to Everton, and then back to Derby last autumn. Strangely enough his first game after the return to the Baseball Ground was against Everton. Along with Don Masson and Asa Hartford, Rioch last year contributed to what Scotland manager Ally MacLeod was pleased to call "the best midfield in Europe".

ROBERTO RIVELINO (Brazil)

Brazil's skipper and midfield general has just signed a new contract with Fluminense of Rio which seems to rule out any move to New York Cosmos immediately after the World Cup. For a two-year contract Rivelino is receiving a signing-on fee of £45,000, plus a monthly basic of £3,500 in the first year and £4,750 in the second year. That's without bonuses, of course, or any income from advertising and investments! Rivelino, who first shot to prominence in the 1970 World Cup-winning team, when he played as a deep-lying outside left, is the man for whom the Brazilians claim a world record 109 international appearances. He is also the man who claims the world's fastest goal — scored in three seconds in a league match with a shot from the halfway line while the opposing goalkeeper was saying his usual pre-match prayer! He joined Fluminense for £650,000 from Corinthians of Sao Paolo after the disappointing 1974 tournament in West Germany. Rivelino is 32.

DOMINIQUE ROCHETEAU (France)

After 18 months ruined by injury the 23-year-old Saint-Etienne right winger found his shooting boots just at the right time last autumn – scoring France's first goal in the 3-1 defeat of Bulgaria in Paris which took them to Argentina. But it was more than a year before that he had caused a tremendous impression, when he played the last eight minutes of the Champions' Cup final against Bayern Munich in Glasgow. Bayern won 1-0, but Rocheteau – despite an injury which kept him out of the rest of the game and later needed an operation – stretched them on the rack in the closing stages. Born on January 14 at Saintes and discovered by Saint-Etienne general manager Pierre Garonnaire, Rocheteau quickly became a cult figure with his long hair, fast car, country retreat and love of pop music.

WHO

Argentina '78

Only his disturbing injury record has prevented foreign clubs taking a more serious interest.

HASSAN ROWSHAN (Iran)

The most dangerous forward Iran have, Rowshan owed his original promotion to the national team to former Manchester United boss, Frank O'Farrell. The Irishman was in charge in Iran from 1974 to 1976 and quickly recognised that Rowshan, an outstanding youth player, could do as well at senior level. He was in the team who beat Israel 1-0 to win the 1974 Asian Games in Tehran, where he also plays for the Taj club. Rowshan, aged 23, is an amateur training only two or three times a week during a normal season, and receiving only expenses — officially! He scored vital winning goals in the two qualifying games against Australia, but was then troubled by a knee injury. He has since undergone an operation in West Germany, and hopes to be back at his best for the Finals matches against Peru, Holland and Scotland. Rowshan will be 23 at the start of the Finals.

JAN TOMASZEWSKI (Poland)

The 'Clown Prince' of Wembley in November 1973 emerged the following summer in West Germany as one of the world's outstanding goalkeepers, with penalty saves against Sweden and West Germany. Yet the LKS Lodz man nearly didn't make the finals. After defying England singe-handed at Wembley he suffered an arm injury which almost cost him his place. Now, again with the finals approaching, Tomaszewski's position isn't as secure as it might be. For he isn't in manager Jacek Gmoch's good books after a clash over training methods. Tall, strong and exceptionally brave, he is still only 27.

ANDRAS TOROCSIK (Hungary)

Torocsik, 23 on May 1, is already being hailed as Hungary's most outstanding forward for 15 years. It's an epithet which has been applied to a few other youngsters who haven't made the grade, but Torocsik has a lot going for him. Already Lajos Baroti has included him for nine senior internationals, and Torocsik comes from a club — Ujpest Dozsa — where a centre forward's talents are especially appreciated. Ujpest, after all, were the club of Ferenc Bene. Under the influence of club coach Pal Varhidi, Torocsik has learnt to analyse his game and to aim for constant improvement. His national team link with Tibor Nyilasi and Bela Varadi promises, a lot for Argentina, even if — for now — he takes second place to Lazslo Fazekas in the goal charts at Ujpest.

BELA VARADI (Hungary)

This is the left-winger from Vasas who last season claimed the Silver Boot awarded by Adidas for finishing as runner-up in the European league scoring lists. Varadi was second only to Rumania's Dudu Georgescu after hitting 36 goals in 34 games. But he did have one advantage — thanks to his precise mastery of dead ball kicks. For of his 36 goals, some 14 came from penalties or free kicks. Yet strangely 24-year-old Varadi failed to score in any of the World Cup group matches against Greece and Russia, and hit only one in the six-goal trouncing of Bolivia. Varadi was discovered by Vasas by Hungary's manager, Lajos Baroti.

BERTI VOGTS (West Germany)

Captain of West Germany and Borussia Moenchengladbach and tagged recently by an English newspaper as 'Dirty Berti', Vogts deserves a little more credit for his defensive skills — though English teams aren't among his favourite opponents. Vogts, who has played for only Borussia at senior level, will retire next year to join the DFB coaching staff. Small, but terrier-like in the tackle, he cut Johan Cruyff to manageable size in the 1974 World Cup Final, and did well too against the in-form Oleg Blokhin in last season's Champions' Cup tie with Dynamo Kiev. But he wasn't so fortunate in the final in Rome against Liverpool. Kevin Keegan not only gave him a run-around, but earned the vital penalty for Liverpool's third goal after Vogts brought him down. Vogts, aged 31, has played in 89 internationals.

ZICO (Brazil)

Full name Artur Antunes Coimbra, the 25-year-old Flamengo forward is being nicknamed the 'white Pele', but we've heard all that before. Having been top scorer in Brazil for the past couple of years he hit five goals in a recent match against a state selection, having grabbed four in the World Cup annihilation of Bolivia. The World Cup provides a perfect stage for him to demonstrate his potential, first spotted by a Flamengo scout who saw him score nine goals in a six-a-side game against Santos. From a poor family, Zico had to be put on a body-building course before he could be put through normal training sessions. He scored with two free kicks on his debut for Brazil against Argentina in the Atlantic Cup in the spring of 1976, but disappointed against England and Italy in the U.S. Bicentennial tournament a few months later.

WLADYSLAW ZMUDA (Poland)

Still only 24, the Slask Wroclaw centre back was runner-up to Grzegorz Lato in the Polish footballer of the year poll at the turn of the year — a welcome sign that he is back in everyone's good books. In 1974 Zmuda's uncompromising defensive talent in the World Cup Finals had him hailed as one of the best stoppers in Eastern Europe. But, after playing Gerd Muller, Jairzinho and Ralf Edström out of successive matches he returned to his club, Gwardia Warsaw, to demand a transfer to Western Europe. Not only was he refused, he was suspended for six months. Yet ironically, after Gwardia then sold him to Slask in midseason Gwardia were relegated, and two years later Zmuda was the major reason for Slask winning the championship. Poland manager Jacek Gmoch was only too pleased to welcome him back to the national team.

DINO ZOFF (Italy)

Now 35, the Juventus goalkeeper was being heavily criticised . . . until he saved penalties from Ruud Geels and Pim Van Dord which enabled his club to squeeze into the Champions' Cup semi-finals at the expense of Ajax. Zoff cost a world record fee for a goalkeeper when Juve paid £500,000 to Napoli in 1972. Italo Allodi, then Juve's general manager, said: "With a man like Zoff, you start the championship with a six-point advantage". Zoff's hero remains Lev Yashin, though he only ever saw him on television. Like the great Russian, Zoff sees no reason why he shouldn't go on until he's 40. He was Italy's goalkeeper in the 1968 European Championship success, but only a reserve in the 1970 World Cup. Regaining his place soon after, he has been immovable ever since, going a record 1,143 minutes without conceding a goal in internationals up to the start of the 1974 finals.

Cup Winners Cup Final, Paris, May 3

AS Liverpool are favourites in the Champions' Cup, so are Anderlecht in the Cup-winners' Cup, attempting – as they did in vain last year – to win for the second time.

Just a glance at the progress the two teams have made emphasises the difference. Austria have struggled, battled and clawed their way through to the Parc des Princes – Anderlecht have taken it at a comparatively leisurely pace.

Where Austria beat Cardiff only 1-0, Anderlecht thrashed Lokomotiv Sofia 8-1; where Austria beat Lokomotiv Kosice only on the away goal, 1-1 overall, Anderlecht triumphed 3-2 over Hamburg, and were better value than the scoreline; where Anderlecht overran Porto 3-1, Austria needed penalties to beat Hajduk.

It all points to the Belgians of Raymond Goethals doing it again.

They have the class, the experience and the highest level of skill necessary to take the Austrians apart at their ease. The only threat is their own superiority complex, their own self-deceptive ability to let a game pass them by.

The Austrians, with their World Cup backbone of skipper Robert Sara, Obermayer, Prohaska and Pirkner, will fight determinedly, but when it comes to international class, men such as Haan, Rensenbrink, Coeck, Van der Elst and Co will take a lot of stopping.

And I don't think that grand old FK Austria have it in them.

Anderlecht (probable): De Bree — Van Binst (capt), Dusbaba, Thissen, Broos — Van der Elst, Haan, Vercauteren, Nielsen — Coeck, Rensenbrink.

FK Austria (probable): Baumgartner — R. Sara (capt), Obermayer, J. Sara, Baumeister — Prohaska, Daxbacher, Gasselich — Parits, Pirkner, Morales.

HOW THEY GOT THERE

Champions' Cup

Liverpool:	5-1, 1-1 v Dresden
	3-1, 4-1 v Benfica
	1-2, 3-0 v Borussia Mg.
Brugge:	4-0, 5-2 v Kuopio Palloseura
	3-0, 0-1 v Panathinaikos
	3-0, 2-3 v Atletico Madrid
	0-1, 2-0 v Juventus

Cup-winners' Cup

Anderlecht:	8-1, 2-0 v Lok. Sofia
	2-1, 1-1 v Hamburg
	0-1, 3-0 v Porto
	1-0, 3-0 v Twente Enschede
FK Austria:	0-0, 1-0 v Cardiff
	0-0, 1-1 v Lok. Kosice
	1-1, 1-1 (3-0p) v Hajduk
	1-2, 2-1 (5-4p) v Moscow Dyn.

UEFA Cup

PSV Eindhoven:	6-2, 5-0 v Glenavon
	5-3, 1-0 v Widzew Lodz
	2-0, 2-1 v Eintract B'schweig
	0-1, 4-2 v Magdeburg
	3-0, 1-3 v Barcelona
Bastia:	3-2, 2-1 v Sp. Lisbon
	2-1, 3-1 v Newcastle
	3-1, 3-2 v Torino
	7-2, 2-4 v Carl Zeiss Jena
	2-3, 1-0 v Grasshoppers.

Sara of FK Austria.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals, first legs

Moscow Dynamo 2 (Tsereti 64, Gershkovich 85)
FK Austria-Memphis Vienna 1 (Baumeister 26)
HT: 0-1. Ref: Dogan Babacan (Turkey). **Att:** 55,000.

Because Moscow remained ice-bound, this tie was switched to the capital of Soviet Georgia, Tbilisi, and provided a triumph for a local lad, David Tsereti.

Dynamo applied all the early pressure, but went behind when 21-year-old defender Ernst Baumeister slipped on to the end of a free kick to put the Austrians ahead. It was a lead they held, thanks to the woodwork and goalkeeper Hubert Baumgartner, until six minutes from time.

Midway through the second half, to the crowd's vast delight, Tsereti has replaced Yakubik in the Dynamo line-up, and this move immediately promised to pay off. Finally, with six minutes left he headed in a Mikhail Gershkovitch cross for the equaliser, and Gershkovitch himself snatched the winner after a goalmouth scramble.

Late though they were, these goals gave Dynamo some hope of improving on 1972, when they were beaten finalists in the Cup-winners' Cup.

Twente Enschede 0
Anderlecht 1 (Nielsen 52)
HT: 0-0. Ref: Adolf Prokop (E. Germany). **Att:** 22,000

Anderlecht's chances of becoming the first team to make three successive appearances in the Cup-winners' final couldn't have looked brighter after Rob Rensenbrink set up the winner for Danish midfielder Benny Nielsen.

Semi-finals — second legs

Anderlecht 2 (Haan 30, Rensenbrink 52 pen)
Twente Enschede 0
HT: 1-0. Ref: Clive Thomas (Wales). **Att:** 32,000.

Anderlecht win 3-0 on agg.

No problems for Anderlecht, who thus became the first team to reach the Cup-winners' Cup three times, having been winners two years ago and runners-up last season.

The first serious attack produced a goal. Ludo Coeck found Francis Vercauteren, and after Van Tessel deflected his pass, Arie Haan ran it past goalkeeper Van Gerven.

Van der Vall and Broos were booked by referee Thomas and Benny Nielsen missed a good chance to score Anderlecht's second just before half-time. However the second goal wasn't long in arriving, from the penalty spot, after Van der Elst had been brought down. Rensenbrink converted the kick.

Nielsen later hit the post, as Van Binst had earlier, and in a rare Twente counter, Thissen was also foiled by the woodwork. Haan, Van Binst and Twente's Widdershut were also booked.

FK Austria 2 (Pirkner 49 pen, Morales 56)
Dynamo Moscow 1 (Yakubik 89)
HT: 0-0. Ref: Antonio Garrido (Portugal). **Att:** 72,000.

FK Austria win 5-4 on penalties – 3-3 on agg.

When was the last time a capacity crowd packed the Prater to watch a club game? No one was sure, but one thing became certain. FK Austria, sponsored by Memphis tobacco corporation, are the first Austrian club to reach a European final.

They did so in the most dramatic fashion.

The first half was disappointing. Austria's defence looked shaky, but the Russians didn't have the wit to find a way through, and it was four minutes after the break that a Pirkner penalty broke the deadlock.

Seven minutes more and veteran Uruguayan Julio Morales made it 2-0 and Austria seemed home and dry until . . . Andrei Yakubik grabbed an aggregate equaliser in the last minute. Extra time produced no change and it was left to penalties.

At 4-4 Hubert Baumgartner — who had saved three penalties in the quarter final second leg with Hajduk Split — stopped Alexander Bubnov's kick.

Up stepped Austria's other Uruguayan, Alberto Martinez, to shoot past Gontar and put his team through. Martinez had entered the game only in the 84th minute, as substitute for Gasselich.

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Will Cou plump f Europea

by ERIC WEIL

BRAZIL'S coach, Claudio Coutinho, picked 21 players to start training at the beginning of March at Teresopolis, about 100 km from Rio de Janeiro, for their pre-World Cup tour of Europe and left out such popular stars as Marinho, Nelinho and Paulo Cesar . . . which provoked instant protests from press and fans.

Also not included is defender, Luiz Pereira (the only player with a foreign club which Coutinho wanted), because Atletico Madrid were not prepared to release him until the end of the Spanish season on May 7. But he remains on the list of 27 reserves from which chosen players may be replaced until the May 22 deadline for registering the World Cup squad.

Thus only four of the 21 played in the last World Cup — goalkeeper Leao, defender Ze Maria and halves Rivelino and Dirceu. Rivelino, the veteran at 33, has already played a record 106 times for Brazil. Eight players have been chosen for the first time and the team's average age is 24½.

The squad also includes 11 of the 21 players who were picked by Brazil against six European teams during the middle of last year — England (0-0), West Germany (1-1), Scotland (2-0), Poland (3-1), France (2-2) and Yugoslavia (0-0). Curiously nine of them faced England in the first of these encounters in which they only got on top in the second half when the England players were tired in the steamy heat.

The skill of Rivelino, Dirceu and Zico did not make up for the lack of ideas shown by the rest of the team in these matches. Brazil relied heavily on the leadership and organising genius of Rivelino, who has already played in two World Cups, and the team does not function the same without him. Brazil has also yet to find a safe defence under pressure and the team did not relish tight marking. Leading scorers Zico and Roberto (last year) did not fit in with Coutinho's style. Their tendency to hold on to the ball too long slowed down play. Without them Brazil's attack rotated better, but its goal potential was reduced.

Rigid tactics

As already mentioned in previous articles, Coutinho did not get his team to play as he wanted last year and they were at their best when they forgot about rigid tactics and pushed ahead in less organised fashion. But while this was good enough to beat weak South American rivals on the way to the World Cup finals, it failed against compact European defences such as those of West Germany, England and Yugoslavia for example against whom they failed to score. Brazil's attacking was frequently too slow and lacked the creativity and imagination of former Brazilian teams such as those which won the World Cup three times since the war (1958, 1962, 1970).

While Brazil remained unbeaten, it was only a Rivelino wonder goal a few minutes before the end which kept the record intact against West Germany, while Yugoslavia had a possible winner anulled — a dubious off-side decision by a Brazilian referee — in their 0-0 draw. Brazil nevertheless continued to show that they are hard to beat. Indeed, they have not lost since September, 1975, when, fielding a state selection instead of a full strength national team, they lost 3-1 to Peru in one leg of the South American Championship semi-final. (Brazil won the other leg 2-0, but went out to eventual champions Peru on the toss of a coin.) Since then they won 10 and drew one game in 1976 and won seven and drew six last year.

BRAZIL'S SQUAD

	Club	Birth	Height (metre)	Weight (kilo)	Caps
Goalkeepers					
Emerson Leao	Palmeiras	11/7/49	1.81	80	58
Carlos Roberto Galo	Ponte Preta	4/ 3/56	1.87	77	0
Backs					
Antonio Dias Dos Santos (Toninho)	Flamengo	7/ 6/48	1.77	75	2
Jose Maria Rodriquez Alves (Ze Maria)	Corinthians	18/ 5/49	1.75	80	59
Jose Oscar Bernardi (Oscar)	Ponte Preta	20/ 6/54	1.86	76	0
Abel Carlos Da Silva Braga (Abel)	Vasco da Gama	1/ 9/52	1.90	87	1
Joao Justino Amaral Dos Santos (Amaral)	Corinthians	21/12/54	1.70	65	24
Jose Fernando Polozi	Ponte Preta	31/10/55	1.83	73	0
Edino Nazareth Filho (Edinho)	Fluminense	5/ 7/55	1.81	76	12
Jose Rodriguez Neto	Botafogo Rio	6/12/49	1.68	67	11
Halves					
Antonio Carlos Cerezo (Toninho Cerezo)	Atletico Mineiro	2/ 4/55	1.81	70	16
Joao Batista Da Si (Batista)	Internacional	8/ 3/55	1.76	74	0
Roberto Rivelino	Fluminense	1/ 1/46	1.69	74	106
Forwards					
Jose Tarciso De Souza (Tarciso)	Gremio	15/ 9/51	1.77	74	0
Gilberto Alves (Gil)	Botafogo Rio	24/12/50	1.75	78	27
Jose Reinaldo Lima (Reinaldo)	Atletico Mineiro	11/ 1/57	1.73	70	9
Joao Batista Nunes de Oliveira (Nunes)	Santa Cruz	14/10/55	1.78	73	0
Artur Antunes Coimbra (Zico)	Flamengo	3/ 3/53	1.72	69	22
Jorge Pinto de Mendonca	Palmeiras	6/ 8/54	1.79	75	0
Dirceu Jose Guimaraes (Dirceu)	Vasco da Gama	15/ 6/52	1.71	63	15
Romeu Evangelista (Romeu)	Corinthians	27/ 3/56	1.77	68	0

tinho
or a
n style?

Brazil face three European teams (Sweden, Spain, Austria) in what is a not too easy first round group in the World Cup, but Coutinho was more worried that all three games will be played in Mar del Plata where June is one of the coldest months with gale-force winds sometimes blowing in from the Atlantic and rain — a climate in which Europeans will feel more at home than the sun-loving Brazilians.

As mentioned previously, Coutinho is preparing for wet fields by training on them in Teresopolis, but his biggest worry is how his players will escape the tight-marking of the Europeans. He has been watching metres of films, mostly of 1966 World Cup games, and thinks he has found a way. Now the problem is to get his players to follow his plans as they are used to loose marking at home.

Coutinho hoped the players would get first-hand experience of this and the climate in their tour of Europe from where he returned recently much impressed by the flexibility, ability to interchange positions and the man-to-man marking. He also fears that his players will not be able to match the Europeans in stamina.

Coutinho is conscious of the importance of having strong, fit and versatile players and he picked his squad with this in mind. Critics say that he has sacrificed talent in his endeavour to emulate the Europeans, but the coach underlines the need for these qualities to be able to move quickly from defence into attack and vice-versa — tactics which are more associated with Europe's "total football" than with Brazil's characteristic ball play.

Certain starters

Coutinho mentions five players as certain starters — goalkeeper Leao who played in all seven World Cup final games four years ago and has been a constant first choice since; half Rivelino, virtually a national hero and Cerezo (nine years younger, but likely to be as good soon), hardworking and versatile Dirceu and defender Amaral.

In fact, Coutinho went so far as to name his possible starting eleven: Leao, Oscar, Toninho, Edinho, Amaral, Cerezo, Rivelino, Tarciso, Zico, Reinaldo, Dirceu. And this, strangely for a country like Brazil where soccer is the number one topic, met with the general approval of press and public.

Zico, however, who has been repeatedly likened to Pele, has just had a poor season, while Reinaldo, the national championship's leading scorer, has not reproduced his league form in previous international outings. As for over-looked defender Marinho, half Nelinho and winger Paulo Cesar (who are on the list of reserves and, many said, would be called up when the team returned from Europe in April), dangerous free-kick taker Nelinho has not fully recovered from injury, high-priced but undisciplined Marinho tends to be a trouble-maker and Paulo Cesar, for so long irreplacable on the wing, has also had a poor season.

Right wing is Coutinho's biggest problem. Newcomer Tarciso has been picked after excellent league performances and may be preferred to off-form Gil because of his speed, strength and tenacity, but neither may be the ideal solution. Attacking backs like Edinho may even be brought up. Another popular winger, Jonozinho, has been left out because, although an excellent ball player, Coutinho considers him too individual.

Brazil's first serious warm-up games were scheduled against Argentina for the annual "Roca" Cup, but they were finally cancelled when Brazil ridiculously insisted that their away leg should be played at one of the World Cup stadiums which were not ready. But Coutinho seemingly was not very keen to meet strong rivals so early when a possible defeat could cause unrest inside and outside the team.

Germany shake the favourites

1954 — SWITZERLAND

HUNGARY were more than mere favourites. They appeared stone cold certainities. Unbeaten in four years, Olympic champions, the team who had ended England's resistance at home by 6-3, and then, just to rub it in, won 7-1 in Budapest . . . this was the team of all the talents, one of the greatest of all time.

They were recognised as such at the time. It seemed impossible that they should fail where a Hungarian team had failed in 1938 — at the last stage. But fail they did, in incredible circumstances.

Once more the format was altered. Though four teams made up each of the four first round groups, they played only two of the other teams. And it was this odd arrangement Sepp Herberger took advantage of. The Germans, back in the FIFA fold now, were in the same original group as Hungary. Fielding a weakened side, the Germans lost 8-3. But they still qualified thanks to a 7-2 play-off win over Turkey.

One more benefit from that 8-3 thrashing: a late tackle by centre half Werner Liebrich crippled Hungarian captain Ferenc Puskas.

Puskas, years later, recalled: "At that time we couldn't even go out in the street. Everyone would recognise, and want to talk to us. No-one spoke about anything except the World Cup. I suppose all the success went to our heads a little. When we went to Switzerland we believed we were unbeatable. That cost us very dearly."

With the Germans plotting every step, Uruguay desperate to retain their title, and Brazil flexing their muscles, the Hungarians had a lot to beat.

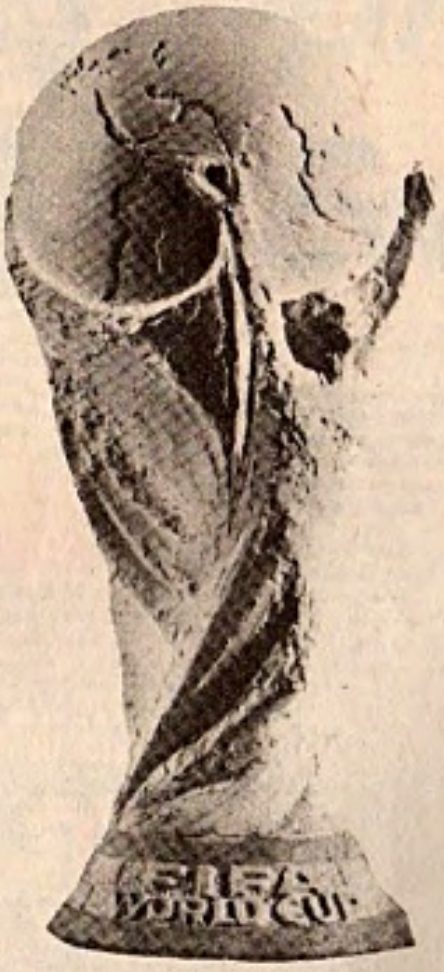
In the quarter finals, in the infamous Battle of Berne, they managed to beat the rugged Brazilians in a game with three expulsions; in the semi-final they beat Uruguay 4-2 in extra time after perhaps the greatest football match of all. Meanwhile the Germans, without injury problems and without too much upset, beat Yugoslavia 2-0 and murdered Austria 6-1.

Hungary were still clear favourites for the final in Berne. But then manager Gusztav Sebes made two controversial changes. He decided to bring back Puskas, who claimed he was now fit again, and he dropped regular right-winger Lazslo Budai. Switching Zoltan Czibor from the left.

It seemed they had been masterstrokes when Hungary went 2-0 up in eight minutes. First Puskas snapped up a rebound, then a terrible muddle between Werner Kohlmeyer and goalkeeper Toni Turek presented Czibor with the second.

All over? Not a bit of it. Three minutes later Josef Bozsik miscued a clearance and West Germany's Max Morlock struck the ball past Gyula Grosics. And, after a few more minutes they pulled level, Helmut Rahn hitting in a corner from skipper Fritz Walter.

The Hungarians has to start again. But Puskas, though fit, was not *match* fit. As he started to labour, so did Hungary. The



Germans sensed victory and after Turek made some brilliant saves at one end Rahn hammered in what proved the winner.

With 12 minutes' to go the Hungarians fought back bravely. Puskas scored apparently — but referee Bill Ling ruled him offside. Hungary's luck had run out — in the worst possible way, and on the worst possible day.

"We'd sweated blood beating Uruguay and Brazil." said Puskas. "And all for this . . ."

WEST GERMANY: Turek — Posipal, Liebrich, Kohlmeyer — Eckel, Mai — Rahn, Morlock, O. Walter, F. Walter, Schäfer

HUNGARY: Grosics — Buzansky, Lorant, Lantos — Bozsik, Zakarias — Czibor, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Puskas, Toth.

Third place: Austria 3, Uruguay 1.

SWEDEN — 1958

UNLIKE 1950 this time there was to be no mistake. Instead of starting brilliantly and finishing on the wrong end of the final match, the Brazilians started slowly, sorted themselves out and ended in glory with a 5-2 victory over hosts Sweden which was but the trailer to a 12-year cycle of success with ju one hiccup.

The World Cup of 1958 will forever linked with one of the greatest names soccer history — Edson Arantes Nascimento, of course Pele.

A 17-year old coloured boy, he had be taken along virtually for the ride, experience. After all, with strikers of calibre of Mazzola (real name Jose Altafin Didi and Vava in the squad, when would play?

But the Brazilian self-confidence let the down. Having beaten Austria 3-0 they we held 0-0 by England — an England struggli to overcome the shattering blow of t Munich air crash which had taken left ba Roger Byrne, left half Duncan Edwards a centre forward Tommy Taylor.

It had been easy for Brazil against Austria who included Helmut Senekowitsc now their manager, at inside forward. But the midfield genius of Didi had been blocke by England and for the final group mat against Russia coach Vicente Feola decide there had to be changes.

The introduction of Pele was one: t explosion of Garrincha was another. He were two men who would dominate wor soccer — yet Garrincha only owed his place a lobby organised by Botafogo club-mate a left back Nilton Santos. The tea psychologist had advised Feola against hi

Fortunately Feola valued Santos's judgment more than that of the psychologist, a was proved right. Garrincha took Russ apart. Brazil won 2-0 and went into t quarter finals, to face Wales.

The curiosity about these World Cup Fina was that all four British nations were ther And it was the unrated Welsh and Norther Irish who did best of all. Though a Pele go killed off Wales, Northern Ireland — astute captained by Danny Blanchflower — als crept into the last eight, only to be well beate 4-0 by France. Injuries and the exigencies of group play-off with Czechoslovakia ha taken their toll.

Meanwhile Sweden, inspired by the veteran Italian-based stars such as Gunna Gren and Nils Liedholm, beat World Cu newcomers Russia 2-0, while holders We Germany, whose captain Fritz Walter ha made a comeback at 38, edged pa Yugoslavia 1-0.

They and the Brazilians were favoured t reach the final: Brazil made it, beating Franc 5-2 thanks to an acrobatic hat-trick from Pel and an unfortunate injury to French stoppe Robert Jonquet — but the Germans wer down 3-1 to Sweden after full back Juskowia was sent off for a swipe at Kurre Hamrin.

"If we can score first in the final," said th Swedes' English manager, George Raynor "the Brazilians will fall apart."

Sweden did score first, through Liedholm but it merely pushed the Brazilians to thei best. Garrincha tore at the Swedish defence making two goals for Vava. Pele scored tw more — one a conjuring trick — and Mari Zagalo got the other in between. Agne Simonsson, shortly bound for Real Madrid

World Cup history-part two-1950-74...

scored again for Sweden, but they had been outclassed.

BRAZIL: Gylmar — D. Santos, Bellini, Orlando, N. Santos — Zito, Didi — Garrincha, Vava, Pele, Zagalo.

SWEDEN: Svensson — Bergmark, Gustavsson, Axbom — Boerjesson, Parling — Hamrin, Gren, Simonsson, Liedholm, Skoglund.

Third place : France 6, West Germany 3.

1962 — CHILE

AFTER 1958 there was a massive swing to imitate the new champions and their 4-2-4 system. Winning was becoming ever more important and possible ways and means were all eagerly followed up. Sadly, as the Chile finals proved, some of those ways and means were not pretty. . . .

Brazil had virtually the same team, despite a lot of changes and experiments between World Cups. But how good they were is clear from the fact that after Pele was injured in the second game of the finals, Brazil carried on to win again without him.

Their new star was Amarildo, settling in quickly alongside Botafogo colleagues in Nilton Santos, Garrincha, Didi and Mario Zagalo, who had now veered back towards midfield.

It was thanks to two late goals from Amarildo that Brazil managed to squeeze past Spain in their last group match. The Spaniards had brought the great Alfredo di Stefano with them. It was to be his first World Cup, at 36. Sadly, injuries prevented him appearing, though they did line up Ferenc Puskas, eight years after Berne.

The Spaniards were managed by controversial Helenio Herrera, who had originally been due to lead Italy. But that was only a minor squall in the storm which overtook the *Azzurri*.

A couple of Italian journalists had, before the finals, written highly critical articles about Chile and its organisation, with the result that the Italians were highly unpopular even before a ball had been kicked. Further, their inclusion of former South American internationals in Humberto Maschio Omar Sivori and Jose Altafini upset local opinion, and when Italy met the hosts in the so-called Battle of Santiago all hell was let loose, with expulsions for Ferrini and David and a broken nose for Maschio.

The Chileans, far from blameless, went on to finish a remarkable third under the astute Fernando Riera, being beaten only in the semi-finals by Brazil.

Their opponents in the final were a Czechoslovakia who revolved around the uncompromising central defenders Jan Popluhar and Svatopluk Pluskal, and the gifted midfield guidance of left half Josef Masopust.

It was Masopust who opened the scoring, but, true to a tradition which has been betrayed only in 1970 in post-war finals, the team who scored first, lost. Amarildo caught goalkeeper Schroif napping at the near post for the equaliser, then created a second goal for midfielder Zito.

Finally Schroif lost an up-and-under from Djalma Santos in the sun, and Vava rapped the Brazilians' third. Champions again!

BRAZIL: Gylmar — D. Santos, Mauro, Zozimo, N. Santos — Zito, Didi, Zagalo — Garrincha, Vava, Amarildo.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Schroiff — Tichy, Pluskal, Popluhar, Novak — Kvasniak, Masopust, Kadraba — Pospichal, Scherer, Jelinek.

Third place: Chile 1, Yugoslavia 0.

1966 — ENGLAND

IT BECOMES *more*, instead of *less* difficult, as time goes on to look back at 1966 objectively.

The patriotic instincts of the time were to rejoice in a victory for the 'Mother of Football', yet the more one thinks about the tournament as a whole, the more the disappointments loom large.

As in any World Cup, so many nations approached the finals with high hopes, only to prove their own worst enemies. The Hungarians were excellent — but lack of an in-form goalkeeper spelled elimination in the quarter finals.

That was the stopping point, too, for the most individually gifted of the finalists, Argentina. They were let down by their temperament in the 1-0 defeat by England which provided the tragi-comic confrontation between the giant Antonio Rattin and the little German referee, Rudolf Kreitlein.

Temperament, too, and internal strife served the Italians, who suffered that remarkable 1-0 defeat by the little men from North Korea. And who, of all those at Wembley watching England-Argentina, can forget the staggering shock of seeing the scoreboard suddenly announce: Portugal 0, North Korea 3?

The Portuguese, stridently led by Eusebio, hit back to win 5-3 and take part in a fine semi-final at Wembley, losing 2-1 to an England who chose the right moment to find their true form.

But though the Portuguese finished in a blaze of glory, don't forget it was this same team who had earlier viciously kicked Pele out of the World Cup as the supra-veteran Brazilians abandoned their title.

For the first time in 12 years the final was an all-European affair, England against West Germany. A defensive error by Ray Wilson presented Helmut Haller with the opening goal, but Geoff Hurst glided through for the equaliser and Martin Peters put England ahead in the second half. It looked all over, but in the dying seconds Wolfgang Weber knocked in a German equaliser from close range, and the match steamed into extra time.

Now was the moment for one of the biggest controversies. Did Hurst's shot, in extra time, land behind the goal-line after it ricocheted down from the bar? The Russian linesman, Bakhramov, said it was over the line before Weber then headed clear. The Germans dispute it to this day, and for once television has been unable to clear up the matter.

Now 3-2 behind the Germans had to attack in force, and in so doing let Hurst run away in the last minute to complete his hat-trick. Sir Alf Ramsey's swingless wonders were the new champions.

ENGLAND: Banks — Cohen, J. Charlton, Moore, Wilson — Stiles, Ball, B. Charlton, Peters — Hunt, Hurst.

WEST GERMANY: Tilkowski — Schulz — Höttges, Weber, Schnellinger — Beckenbauer, Haller, Overath — Seeler, Held, Emmerich.

Third place — Portugal 2, Russia 1.

1970 — MEXICO

LOOKING back in the future, we may recognise the Mexico World Cup as one of the great turning points in international soccer.

On the eve of the finals football could see little way out of its troubles. Defensive football seemed on the increase — the 4-4-2 which proved successful for England had been slavishly copied round the world; respect for referees seemed to have gone, discipline on the field was at a premium, and interpretation of the Laws varied from one continent to another.

Thus it was one of the great ironies that, though FIFA made great efforts to iron out refereeing inconsistencies, it was a multi-million pound commercial deal that turned the tide.

Because of European television times the kick-offs were switched to midday local time — the hottest part of the day. This, in turn, meant players were forced by temperatures and humidity to play their matches at half-speed and that worked a miracle on discipline.

Yet even so FIFA set the tone by picking the officious West German, Kurt Tschenscher, to control the opening match between Mexico and Russia. Tschenscher seemed to be working on the principle of: "If it moves, book it." The finalists all took the message.

There were two other innovations at these finals — the use of red and yellow cards by referees, now universally accepted, and the introduction of substitutes — two per side per game for any reason.

Mexico, with the help of their fans and also some dubious refereeing which sent the poor Belgians wild, finished top of group one, ahead of Russia on goal difference. In group two Italy, unconvincing as ever, headed the rest, with Uruguay squeezing ahead of Sweden on goal difference — 2-1 to 2-2!

Group three cast up the surprise packet. Though West Germany predictably topped the section thanks to the goals of a new scoring machine named Gerd Müller, it was Peru who grabbed the glory.

Recklessly exciting and coached by Brazil's 1958 and 1962 star Didi, it was in fact Brazil who ended their charge in the quarter finals. The Brazilians, with a refashioned team, had topped group four ahead of England — thanks to a 1-0 win over the holders which provided one of the best games of the finals as well as an incredible save by Gordon Banks and proof that Bobby Moore was one of the world's great defenders.

Moore led England with class and style, shaking off the upset of the accusations that he had stolen a bracelet from a hotel shop in Bogota, Colombia, on the way to Mexico.

England seemed well set for the last four when they led 2-0 against West Germany in Leon, but two astute substitutions by the Germans where England's were badly-chosen, and some hesitant goalkeeping by reserve Peter Bonetti turned the match round.

The Germans then went out in extra time in the semi-finals, losing 4-3 to an Italy who thought they had found the secret of accommodating both Gianni Rivera and Sandro Mazzola by substituting one for the other at half-time in their matches.

But in the final the Italians were no match

●*Continued on page 43*

News from West Germany by Arthur Rotmil

FC Cologne head for third win

IN the Bundesliga title race FC Cologne, who won the first championship when the National League was created in 1963, appear well set to repeat their triumph. The number thirteen has not after all been unlucky for the club founded on the 13th February 1948 and thus celebrating this season just the 30th anniversary of its birth.

The club whose full title is 1.FC Köln (Köln is German for Cologne), leads already in the all-time Bundesliga table. It has won so far, two German championship titles (1962 & 1964) and twice the DFB Cup (1968 & 1977). It boasts over 2,000 members, it took part in about 300 international matches and so far provided the national team with 22 players, who gained a total of 362 caps.

Celebrated

West German football has never celebrated a major success without a man from Cologne. Hans Schäfer and Wolfgang Overath starred in West German World Cup winning teams in 1954 and 1974 respectively. The long list of prominent players is completed by Jupp Röhrig, Karl-Heinz Schnellinger, Georg Stollenwerk, Leo Wilden, Wolfgang Weber, Hannes Löhr and Heinz Flohe, the schemer of the present national side.

It all began on that 13th of February, 30 years ago in the modest surroundings of a pub in a suburb of Cologne. The idea was initiated and developed by Franz Kremer, who from the day of foundation till his tragic death on November 11, 1967 was the big boss of 1.FC Köln and at the same time a distinguished official in many functions within the DFB.

Organised

It was Kremer who organised the amalgamation of the two Cologne clubs 'Sülz 07' and 'Kölner BC 01' who formed the 1.FC Köln. A few days after the initial ceremony the new club played the first of its now nearly 1,800 matches! Herr Kremer is also regarded as the "father of the Bundesliga" — his name is mentioned in every good luck message for the club and in every speech at celebrations. The club's own ground in the suburb of Sülz-Klettenberg is named after him.

Team manager Hennes Weisweiler, who played for Cologne when the club gained promotion in 1949 to the Oberliga-West, is now in the process of leading the Cologne team in its jubilee year to the championship, perhaps even to the "double". A lost son has indeed returned with a vengeance!

Mixed luck

Other famous managers had had mixed luck in their efforts to succeed in that difficult and often slippery hotbed in Cologne: Helmut Schneider, Karl Winkler, Oswald Pfau, Georg Knöpfle, Hennes Multhaup, Gyula Lorant and the still beloved Zlatko Cajkovski. But there was not always sunshine and roses in the ranks of the club of whom some say that it plays elegant football, while others claim it is provocatively arrogant!

It was in Scotland, in Dundee, that the 1.FC Köln suffered its heaviest ever defeat at international level — 8-1 in the First Round of the European Cup 1962/63! This season, for instance, they faltered in the First Round of the Cup Winners Cup against Porto. In 1969 they were even threatened with relegation! In the decisive match th managed to beat 1.FC Nürnberg 3-0 a reached the saving thirteenth place.

The club motto for the jubilee year is: " years of top football". Now, because of t exalted position in the League and Cup, t claim appears well justified. Even the fam billy-goat, the mascot of the club, see happy and satisfied with the curr successful run!

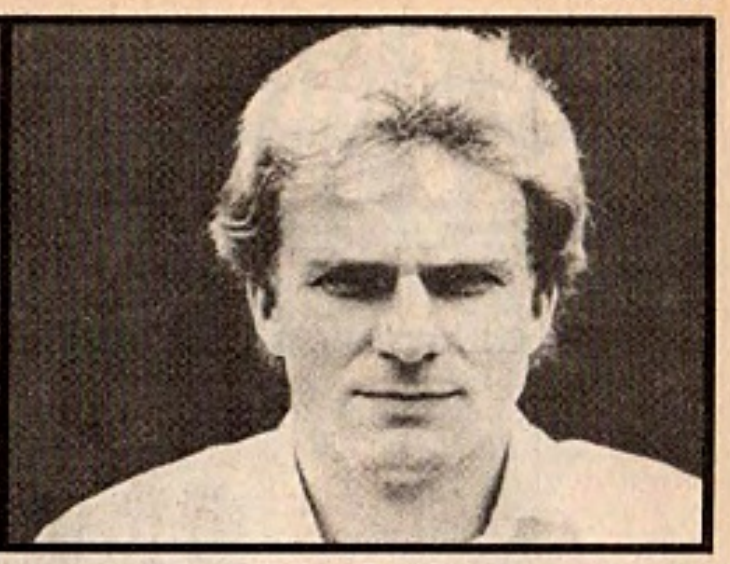
Cologne's most serious challengers, t title holders Borussia Mönchengladba have impeded their own chances through astonishing piece of bad fixture plann which they brought on themselves. Wh Liverpool pulled out of the ties for t unofficial world club championship agai Boca Juniors, the South American C winners, the West Germans stepped in th place.

But what possessed the club's bosses agree to play in Easter week? Well, of cou they didn't know that the postponed Leag match v. Fortuna Düsseldorf will have to played in the same period. And they did obviously reckon on reaching the Europe Cup semi-finals! The lure of the £40,0 guarantee from the Argentinians proved t great . . .

Rudiger Abramoczik

Erich Beer

Dieter Burdenski



Karlheinz Rummingge

Thus, three hours after their League match v. Eintracht Brunswick Borussia embarked on an 18-hour flight to Buenos Aires to play Boca Juniors: three days later they met Fortuna and another four days after that Liverpool in the European Cup!

Borussia had in fact a much tougher programme than Liverpool before the clubs met in the semi-final first leg. The German champions already bogged down with having to play twice a week, were also required to release their top players for the international matches v. Brazil on April 5 and v. Sweden on April 19. If the Gladbacher survived this programme with some measure of success, then they will indeed have proved themselves a champion club.

A weakened Borussia without the injured star strikers Allan Simonsen and Jupp Heynckes performed magnificently in Buenos Aires, holding Boca to a 2-2 draw in a fair game, after which they received a tremendous ovation from the 40,000 crowd. "I have never experienced anything like it," said the German captain Berti Vogts. Their goals were scored by Hannes and Bonhof. The second leg will be played at the start of next season, probably in Düsseldorf.

Frantic

Borussia's former greatest rivals Bayern Munich have meanwhile been making frantic efforts to return to international football. The club's president Wilhelm Neudecker has tempted his players with a special bonus of £7,500 per man, if only they could qualify for next season's UEFA-Cup. How the mighty are fallen . . . And yet the team with such aces as Maier, Schwarzenbeck, Kapellman, Oblak, Hoeness, Müller and Rummenigge should be doing much better than struggling in the lower regions of the Bundesliga.

A similar plight has afflicted the Hamburger SV. The winners of last year's Cup Winners Cup, shaken by managerial upheavals, the unfortunate signing of Kevin Keegan at the worst possible psychological moment, and the loss of form of key players, now appear at last to have reached calmer waters. The work of team manager Arkoc Oezcan is beginning to have a settling effect on the side, while general club manager Günter Netzer has brought more authority and integrity to his position, although he doesn't have much say in the running of the team.

Keegan returned after his eight-week suspension obviously refreshed and has been playing quite well, without scoring the goals he used to get more frequently at Liverpool.

The surprise team of the season is undoubtedly newly promoted VfB Stuttgart. They have already smashed the attendance record in the Bundesliga for a full season. Their 15 home matches (two were still outstanding), were seen by over 800,000 spectators — the previous best was Hertha Berlin's total of 745,167 established in the 1970-71 term. The club management, anxious to capitalise on this soccer boom in Stuttgart have increased the prices of season tickets for next year by 83 per cent!

After the 2-1 victory over England the national team gained another narrow 1-0 win against Russia, in Frankfurt. Manager Helmut Schön wanted to field his best side this time, but again he was unlucky. That fine midfielder Herbert Neumann (Cologne) cried off with an inflammation of knee joints and his place was taken by Bernd Hölzenbein.

After the match Helmut Schön said: "I want to thank our tough, but very fair Russian opponents for the lessons which we've received and learned today. Just as well it wasn't a glorious win to raise exaggerated hopes, although any success is vital to the team's confidence and spirit.

"But this match in Frankfurt was better than the one in Munich (v. England): I let the side play right through deliberately, without substitutes. The reason being that this should be more or less my team which will open the World Cup tournament in Argentina. I was particularly pleased with the performance of Manfred Kaltz as libero."

At least one important point arose from this test of the world champions: After the unconvincing display by Schwarzenbeck in the role of sweeper (libero) against England, it does look as if Kaltz has confirmed his ability to fulfil this role better than anybody — except of course Franz Beckenbauer, who, alas, will not be going to Argentina.

It must however be pointed out that in the first half the Germans were not at their best and if the Russians — with only three friendly games since their winter break behind them — had displayed more determination and less respect in attack, there would have been a shock result. However, after the interval the Germans took full control and were helped by an early goal (47th minute) from their stopper Rolf Rüssmann.

A spectacular overhead bicycle kick by Klaus Fischer, which hit the net like a rocket, was disallowed by the Scottish referee John Gordon for alleged dangerous play. But a replica of this acrobatic strike by Fischer was allowed against Switzerland and voted "Goal of the Year" in West Germany!

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CAN SMITH WORK ORACLE FOR BRUMMIES?

Birmingham City Chairman Jim Coombs (left) with new manager Jim Smith.

TRAVELLING to St. Andrews, the home of Birmingham City, I followed road signs "to the circus" and the recent happenings at the Midland club certainly rank in the bizarre, unpredictable world of the big top. Concern has been expressed with their failure to make an impact in the '70s but Birmingham City have never been a successful first division team.

by Brian Marshall

Going back even to the 1920s in the hey-day of their famous record goalscoring centre forward Joe Bradford they have never challenged for league honours in the premier section.

Traditionally, Birmingham City have always enjoyed their limited glory as a second division side and here lies the crux to all the present trouble. Once they gain promotion, as they did in 1972, they find themselves in a rut invariably fighting to avoid relegation as they are at the present time.

In their 100 years history their only major honours is the Football League Cup which they won before the likes of Liverpool and Manchester United took a serious interest in the competition.

Birmingham, due to their record, have been unable to attract the big name stars despite the fact they currently possess one of the best young strikers in the world in Trevor Francis, who, I predict, will be heading to the Continent in the not too distant future.

Released

It is a sad fact that one of the biggest criticisms laid against Birmingham is that they have inexplicably disposed of their best assets. In recent years they have released such players as Kenny Burns, who has made a major contribution to the success of Nottingham Forest, this season, Bob Latchford, Jimmy Greenhoff, and Terry Hennessy.

Unfortunately, it is these kind of decisions which have restricted Birmingham's progress on the field and which has in many areas held them up to ridicule for their lack of leadership.

Invariably their snap, and not too successful decisions made to quell off the field unrest, have usually led to further complications. It was Birmingham who first appointed the dual managers, Arthur Turner and Pat Beasley. Later when Gil Merrick, a club stalwart for over 20 years, quit as manager they went one better and appointed club secretary Walter Adams, chief scout Don Dorman and Joe Mallett, as joint managers.

This time they acted just as hastily in appointing unknown Jim Smith from Blackburn after he had applied for the job following the swift departure of Sir Alf Ramsey under a cloud of bad feeling.

But they produced their ace from the pack by naming their biggest press critic Dennis Shaw, as their new commercial manager on a three-year contract reputedly at twice the salary he is at present receiving from his newspaper. This move came after Shaw advocated a big shake-up in the Birmingham club and the appointment of a full-time managing director to, in his own words, "co-ordinate all departments spreading zest and zing through the club".

Proposals

It appears as if Birmingham's directors and in particular the chairman, Mr. Keith Coombs, and vice-chairman, Mr. Jack Wiseman, have gone part of the way to taking Shaw's advice but while power at St. Andrews rests within such a small circle I have my reservations about the new proposals.

The Coombs and Wiseman families are the major shareholders and while they are in possession there is very little chance of a fresh breeze going through the club. Coombs, in fact, claims that it would cost in the region of £1m to acquire the shares in question and there is no way any consortium could come up with this kind of money in the present financial climate.

This unhealthy situation has produced an air of complacency over the years because the controlling interest has always been in the hands of such a few people for a considerable number of years.

As a result a tremendous void has been created with players and officials invariably on different sides of the ravine. One famous player said: "During my period with Birmingham it was a case of either agreeing to everything that was done by certain directors, or following your own conscience 'and sleeping well at night."

Question

Now Birmingham's chairman, Mr. Keith Coombs, who in conversation has a habit of ending a comment with the question of "don't you agree?" to a colleague, has the awesome task of trying to make Birmingham City a great club.

But time could be running out for Mr. Coombs who took over the business empire created by his late father. He has attempted to buy time with his recent decisions but unfortunately Birmingham's past record is a drag-line on any aspirations under the present regime.

There is a general lack of confidence in the club and Birmingham have slipped back the bad playing days of the mid-sixties wl they were relegated in 1965. It was not u 1972 that they returned to the First Divisi

These facts cannot be disputed Birmingham City — a club which has alw been ambitious and seemingly progressive unable to make any playing impact in upper reaches because of their o self-imposed restrictions.

Commenting upon the recent moves unseat the board, Mr. Coombs sa "Personally, I feel that the club's supporte are being exploited by a certain number people. I presume these people are behi everything that has taken place in rece weeks.

"But I do not feel that the complaints a justified. In fact, their barrel of complaints empty so far as I am concerned. They a simply running out of ammunition.

Priorities

"I do not underestimate these people bu feel that we have our priorities right. appointing Jim Smith I have an experienc manager who has been successful with eve club in which he has been associated. He h apparently jumped at the right time and h already proved to me that he is a shrew manager."

All too often, however, Birmingham hav been involved in relegation battles while the near neighbours Aston Villa have enjoyed a the glamour.

There is a wise-crack in Birmingham th Aston Villa have had the F.A. Cup stole more times than Birmingham City have wo the trophy.

It is a bitter irony that St. Andrew's, now i desperate need of being smartened up, never considered as a venue for an F.A. Cu semi-final.

Now Birmingham claim that a £250,00 expected profit from their new lottery will b used on improving facilities at St. Andrew and giving the outside appearance a mor modern appearance in sharp contrast to th largely derelict area surrounding the ground.

But the fact that Birmingham have ha three managers in one season highlights thei problems. It is not a new situation and there i no certainty that the leopard will change it spots over the next few months.

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Front row: Martin Buchan, Lou Macari, Archie

nstone, Alan Rough, Willie Donachie, Danny McGrain,
e Gemmell, Asa Hartford, Don Masson, Tom Forsyth.

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BRIAN GLANVILLE

Of violence... and vigilance

THAT horrible affair at Millwall last March led to Sir Harold Thompson, an academic of international distinction, deploring academics who purport to explore the mysteries of football fans' violence. Understandable, perhaps in a month which had produced a plethora of publications on the subject by sociologists.

I'm afraid I have always regarded sociology as nothing much of an academic discipline at all; a pursuit which serves largely to afford jobs to many who might otherwise be unemployable, and to provide a soft option for students who have no real right to be at university at all, no genuine academic bent. Oddly enough, I had a first hand report of what went on at Cold Blow Lane — and afterwards, little less unpleasantly — from a son who stood on the terraces and is himself bound for Oxford: though not to read sociology. His own acquaintance with the pond life of the terraces, close and intense, left him with little admiration for the books I have been talking about; or for the techniques of sociology itself.

Strict ritual

I am hardly the first to suggest that sociologists too often spend large amounts of time and money to come up with the most thundering truisms. Thus, one of these books scornfully rejected the idea that thuggery on the terraces, aggro and all that, are mindless and formless. Indeed, the authors tell us, vibrantly, there is strict ritual and structure to be perceived. As if we haven't been aware of that for a decade and more! One looked in vain for any reference to Peter Terson's splendid musical play, *ZIGGER ZAGGER*, which, without benefit of truism or jargon, showed us plainly, and long ago, what lies behind it all; the disaffection, disappointment, alienation of the young.

As I have remarked so many times before, the sins of our violent and increasingly unpleasant society have been visited on football, and to this extent, Sir Harold Thompson is perfectly right to demand that the Government lend it financial support. In the last analysis, it simply isn't football's problem; or rather, it has *become* willy nilly football's problem, precisely because football is so immensely popular, and alas allows the proliferation of clan warfare, more or less ritualised aggression. That aggression is not going to disappear, even if every Football League ground in the country is locked up — as the Police Federation would seem to wish.

In other words, if the disaffected young were not being violent at football matches, they would be deploying their violence somewhere else. This is no consolation at all to football, whose authorities know very well that closing down grounds is no true answer. We have heard it said that the trouble at the Millwall-Ipswich Town match was that Millwall and Ipswich fans were mixed together, yet this seems to me a thoroughly shallow explanation of what went on.

The fact is that neither Millwall nor the police took cognizance of the fact that there was going to be a crowd some three times larger than usual; and both are certainly to blame for this. The inevitable consequence was that the police presence was quite inadequate. Whether or not circumstances had led Ipswich fans to be placed at the Cold Blow Lane end, it seems certain that a great many Millwall fans — and not all of them teenagers — had gone to the game looking for trouble.

Since Millwall has been a plague spot all this season, and for many seasons in the past, there is, alas, a case to be made — an exception which proves the rule — for closing it down. Yet one's sympathies go out to its players and its splendid manager, George Petchey, none of whom has done anything to encourage such brutalities. Petchey, indeed, made a point after he had got to The Den of telling the supporters what great fellows they were, reckoning, not without some shrewdness, that their own basically low opinion of themselves had been exacerbated by criticism and poor publicity.

Punishment

The poor old codger who was struck on the head that torrid afternoon, and appeared next Monday on television, suggesting capital punishment (though the policeman who assisted him rejoined that "they tried capital punishment on me and it didn't work") surely had a point when he suggested a system of identity cards. It's not one that I like on the whole, not one that is easy to administer, but desperate cases demand desperate remedies, and Millwall is unquestionably a desperate case. Indeed, there is good reason to believe that the club had not done enough to help itself, and to control such violence, in the weeks before the Ipswich affair.

As to the wider issues, it is difficult to see how they can be dealt with at all; at least by football and its establishment. Violence is in the air, violence pervades our whole society. Unemployment worsens it but doesn't, I think, wholly explain it. After all, there is plenty of violence to be found in as opulent a state as California, much if it on the surface without motive.

When Panorama showed their programme about the violent Millwall fans, there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth by, among others, our Minister of Sport, Denis Howell. He and those like him had a point, though not one with which I could agree. They were rather in the position of those Roman Emperors who executed messengers bearing bad news. The phenomenon unquestionably existed, Panorama displayed it; they did not in any way condone it. Unfortunately, as we know, even bad publicity can have a titillating effect on the immature and the social "outcast." To that extent, these aimless young thugs may have felt they were given an endorsement. When, after all, you are as totally disenchanted, as hopeless and self-hating as they were, public disapproval and notoriety may be preferable to public indifference. This said, and admitted, I do not think the problem was substantially affected by what Panorama did.

Solutions

Alas, most of the broader solutions proposed require money, and money is what, in this time of recession, we so seriously lack.

All one can see, perhaps a little feebly, is that an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure. Thus, if Wembley Stadium had put up proper fences when they should have done, we should not have had that banshee invasion of the pitch by Scottish fans last May. If Millwall and the police had been properly prudent, I doubt whether the Millwall-Ipswich game would have been such a black one. Heavier fines, imprisonment, are not always a help. Sometimes they tend to be visited on the wrong people. A nineteen year old Fulham fan I know was surrounded outside Selhurst Park by Palace fans, one of whom jumped on his friend's back. When he tried to pull him off, he was arrested, subsequently brought to court, convicted, and fined £50.

The sociologists set up easy targets when they quote the mindless ramblings of some of the least intelligent tribunes of the popular Press. They might as well hold up the example of poor Bobby Robson, Ipswich's manager, who said in private after the Millwall game — only to be quoted in public — that flame throwers should have been used. He had, at the time, been viciously abused by an adult Millwall fan, and was in a state of agitation in consequence. Setting up dummies and knocking them down may give a sociologist a warming sense of transient satisfaction. Telling us what we know already may enable him to get his name on the cover of a book. The real difficulties are so deep and elusive that they would baffle a Freud, let alone a Harold Thompson.

In the meantime, we must not be panicked into a generalised hysteria.

ARGENTINA IMPROVING

GOOD news for Argentine coach Cesar Menotti at press-time was that half Osvaldo Piazza had been released by his French club, St Etienne, and would be back in Argentina early in April. Meanwhile forward Mario Kempes would also be included in the Argentine team although he would only be returning early May from Valencia once the Spanish season is over. Defender Enrique Wolff however — the third player Menotti wanted from Europe — is out. Not released by Real Madrid in time, he could not now, in any case, travel as his wife is expecting a baby.

Menotti has been experimenting in defence with some of the uncapped players he has brought into the squad this year such as Luis Galvan (of national vice-champions Talleres) who has been an instant success, Ruben Pagnanini and Victor Botaniz and this seemed to be an improvement on last year when defence was one of Argentina's weakest departments.

While all the old faults described in previous articles were apparent in Argentina's first serious warm-up game against a Uruguayan selection in Mar del Plata (0-0), they faced Peru in Buenos Aires a few days later and showed a lot of improvement — although winning only 2-1 — with winger Ortiz, replacing the injured Bertoni, being a surprising revelation.

Colleague Andrew McLeod, who saw the match while I was away, gave this analysis of the Argentine team:

Improved

Argentina's 2-1 win may not sound as good as it really was if you go by the score, but a vastly improved midfield, coupled with a return to form of speedy winger Oscar Ortiz proved that something has clicked and maybe, after all, Menotti was right all the time: That practical players are all right for club teams, but a national team needs a bit more than sheer brute force. It needs inspiration.

The gifted Valencia replaced Villa in midfield and everything seemed to run more smoothly. The team looked sharper in attack and everyone kicked whenever they could from wherever they could at goal — as did defender Pagnanini when he netted a spectacular goal from 25 metres out to cap a good performance in attack, although a somewhat shaky one in defence. It was only his second match in the national team however and the rest of the defence also still left much to be desired.

Defender Passarella's kicking and headers early in the match looked lethal and Peru's Argentine born goalie Quiroga did wonders to keep the score down. In midfield Ardiles was as efficient as ever — the best in his position and the most intelligent and consistent player in the squad, while Gallego, though slower than the rest of the team, was good at breaking up Peruvian attacks.

Up front Luque had another poor game, but Houseman was as dangerous as ever although this time even his spectacular dribbling was eclipsed by Ortiz's performance — but it remains to be seen whether Ortiz, often intimidated last year, can turn in the same kind of performance against tougher European defenders.

Menotti said after the match that he was satisfied with the performance although he admitted that there was still a lack of balance between defence and attack. He said that in this match the team was functioning 60% — a percentage scale he is very fond of using.

Menotti also said that he expects to have his first team settled by May 1 and would not change it in the group one World Cup matches against France, Hungary and Italy (unless forced to do so by injury, etc.). He mentioned that world champions West Germany and the great Santos team (in which he played for a time with Pele) did not change their line-ups in accordance with the rivals they faced.

Argentina beat Peru 3-1 in the return game in Lima to take the "Ramon Castilla" Cup on a 5-2 aggregate and they had further warm-up matches scheduled in Buenos Aires against Bulgaria and Romania. Then, according to Menotti, they would only play practice games behind closed doors during the last month before the World Cup.

Before moving their training camp from Mar del Plata to near Buenos Aires in March, the squad played a training match at Mar del Plata's then still unfinished World Cup stadium, using balls which will be used during the World Cup. This ball is a bit lighter than those used in the local championships and the players had to kick with more care and sense of direction. They also found the session tiring as the field had a lot more grass on it than the bare local soccer grounds.

PERU TOO SLOW

Peru, meanwhile, had started with warm-up

Men to watch

RENE HOUSEMAN is Argentina's longest serving international in the World Cup squad with 44 full international appearances to his credit (on March 24th) although he is only 25. Houseman, of Belgian extraction, is also the only man who played in the last World Cup in 1974 (apart from goalkeeper Fillol who made just one appearance).

In his early days as a pro soccer player, he was undisciplined and frequently did not train properly. While with Second Division club Defensores de Belgrano, officials sometimes had to look for him all over the club (and elsewhere) when he had not changed a few minutes before kick-off time. But he nevertheless mesmerised opposing defences and soon hit the headlines when transferred to First Division Huracan. He is now a permanent fixture in the national team and, for the majority, the number one goal threat to the opposition.

Penalty kicks

But his play still lacks discipline. He is not a team man, yet his brilliant ball control and changing of position can completely tangle up any defence. Furthermore, he is the man most likely to get penalty kicks for his team — not only by throwing himself down in the penalty area but genuinely and, often unwittingly, being tripped by defenders who lose their balance as Houseman quickly changes direction with the ball close to his feet.

report from ERIC WEIL

games against Argentine First Division clubs in Lima, beating San Lorenzo 1-0, losing 2-0 to Rosario Central, drawing 2-2 with Chacarita Juniors and beating Newell's Old Boys 2-0. They lacked co-ordination in all departments, failed to sustain rhythm and were sometimes too eager near goal. Once again the organising of half Cubillas spelt most danger to opponents, while forward Sotil spoilt attacks because he was still not fully fit.

The Argentine teams played little good soccer, but all marked well in defence, which is something the Peruvian forwards could do little against. But coach Marcos Calderon said that he had been trying out players in these matches and the real team would be facing Argentina in the first full international. The "real team" did not do much better as McLeod reports:

It was sad to see such a once speedy winger like Ramirez fat and slow. It was easier for a defender like Hector Chumpitaz to get away with his lack of speed at 34, because of his good positional sense, but up front where speed is required and is not there, it shows.

Teofilo Cubillas sorely missed someone to play the "one-two" with which he and Sotil dazzled spectators at the Mexico World Cup. That was eight years ago, but here was the great Teofilo picking his way through the Argentine defence as if it was the easiest thing in the world after having tried in vain to inspire help from Goritti and Velazquez.

On the whole the Peruvian side was game but too slow. Their prospects of beating Scotland and reaching the quarter-finals look very dim. How will Navarro, who could never catch Ortiz, cope with Scotland's Johnstone, for example? And who will stop Joe Jordan from nodding in as many goals as he likes.

Goalkeeper Quiroga was by far their best player, but he cannot hold the fort alone. Other good players were Leguia — who replaced captain Melendez (excluded from the squad with an old injury), Cubillas and Rojas.

Peru were scheduled to play in Europe before the World Cup.

Peruvian World Cup players (left to right) Cubillas, Chumpitaz and Leguia at their hotel in Buenos Aires before the warm-up friendly against Argentina which they lost 2-1.

Houseman is convinced that his ability and individual technique, as well as that of his team mates, is superior to that of European players, but he admits that they are faster and fitter. He puts this down to the fitness programme started during school days there, but which does not properly exist here yet. Houseman realises Argentina has been drawn in a tough group and he says:

Good idea

"Hungary beat us there, but we easily beat them in Buenos Aires last year. We have a good idea how they play. We also know what to expect from France with whom we drew here last year. They have a solid structure. Italy, on the other hand, we have not met since the World Cup four years ago and I understand they have changed their structure. They are not so defensive now, which is good news for me. Anyway, to win the World Cup we must beat the best and I think that this year we have our best chance to win it."

Head lines

Man to watch: BRAZIL'S REINALDO

Brazil's centre forward Reinaldo, who only played eight times for the national team and started in only three games, is only 21. He did not particularly impress last year, but hit the headlines this year when he finished as the national championship's leading scorer with 28 goals for Atletico Mineiro of Belo Horizonte, the team with which he has been since he was 14.

Reinaldo — full name Jose Reinaldo Lima — was born at Ponte Novo, 180 km from Belo Horizonte, one of eight sons of a railway worker. In his ninth game for the Atletico Mineiro junior team he scored a hat-trick. The last time he did it was in his team's 4-2 national championship semi-final victory earlier this year which left him 10 goals ahead of his nearest challenger (Serginho) in the scorers' table.

Reinaldo turned professional a few days after his sixteenth birthday and today — five years later — he is not only top scorer, but also, according to Brazil's national coach Coutinho, one of the best forwards in the country.

Hypnotised

Reinaldo only earned 1500 dollars a month last season and said he would not mind playing abroad, but he points out that he is not hypnotised by the game as some other players. "Football is my profession at the moment until I learn another. I hope to play at least another 10 years and a transfer abroad would always be welcome if it is convenient financially."

Meanwhile Reinaldo is still doing his secondary school course — which is not strange for a 21-year-old in Brazil — and he will take his final exams at the end of the year. Then he will study business administration. "I am not going to devote myself entirely to the game and hold up my studies . . . there is time for both," he says.

Conscious

He is conscious of the dangers of professional soccer, perhaps because he has already had cartilage operations on both knees. He also occasionally gets into rows on the field and was suspended for four games at the end of the season. His team, Atletico Mineiro, plays extremely fast soccer and keeps it up all through the game and they have beaten more experienced teams in this way. Playing in the centre of the attack, Reinaldo has excellent ball control and shoots well with both feet like most Brazilian forwards, but what particularly endears him to coach Coutinho is his tenacity near goal, even when surrounded by defenders and his willingness to help out in defence. Coutinho wants versatile, strong players with plenty of fight and resistance in the European style.

Reinaldo realises that European teams on the whole are fitter, but sees no reason why Brazil cannot become just as fit. He knows that to be good at your profession, good preparation is essential and he is looking for perfection . . . ". . . so that when I retire people will remember that I was part of this sport."

by Keir Radnedge

Hooliganism: ARE UEFA ON THE RIGHT ROAD?

JUST over a year ago I outlined in an article here the tasks and responsibilities taken up by the Union des Associations Europeennes de Football — UEFA, that is — since its inception nearly 25 years ago.

Now general secretary, Hans Bangerter, has just issued his report for 1976 and 1977.

And at first glance it looks like a self-congratulatory paper, telling us that everything in the garden is rosy; that all the competitions are being run on more successful and more efficient lines; and that the plethora of committees are dealing gradually with the problems of television, advertising, and the Common Market's rules and regulations.

But tucked away near the back are two sections which assumed greater importance for me, since the day I read through them the morning newspapers were full of descriptions of how Liverpool's fans — or, a manic minority — left a trail of havoc across Belgium on their way home after the first leg of the Champions' Cup semi-final against Borussia Moenchengladbach in Düsseldorf.

The juxtaposition of the UEFA commentary on crowd trouble coming *behind* the sections on competitions and committees made me wonder if a little slowing-down in progress on one side might not help senior officials find solutions on the other.

Bangerter notes: "UEFA remains dedicated to the fight against the deterioration of spectator behaviour in European football stadia, mostly at club matches — misbehaviour provoked by chauvinistic, sometimes drunken elements who feel they can vent their grudge against society with impunity at international matches, safe in the anonymity of the crowd."

Soccer hooliganism is above all an English malaise, but Holland, Belgium, West Germany, Greece and Italy have all had their share — particularly recently.

Bangerter is more to the point with the simpler language that follows on: "It is a sad fact that football grounds today serve the masses as a sort of outlet for aggression."

All true, but all, also, the same words which

UEFA club competition attendances

	Matches	Total	Ave.	Comp. with prev. ssn
Champions' Cup				
1975–76	61	1,736,087	28,460	+13%
1976–77	61	1,861,333	30,514	+7%
Cup-winners' Cup				
1975–76	61	1,128,952	18,508	−16%
1976–77	63	1,282,224	20,353	+10%
UEFA Cup				
1975–76	125	2,713,992	21,712	+41%
1976–77	126	2,534,079	20,112	−7%

By way of comparison, figures for the International Football Cup games — the summer Inter-toto tournament — were:

1975	120	310,598	2,588
1976	132	243,764	1,846
1977	120	334,734	2,789

European champio

Group One

1978
24 May Denmark v Rep. Ireland
20 Sep Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland
Denmark v England
11 Oct Denmark v Bulgaria
25 Oct Rep. Ireland v England
N. Ireland v Denmark
29 Nov Bulgaria v N. Ireland
1979
7 Feb England v N. Ireland
2 May Rep. Ireland v Denmark
N. Ireland v Bulgaria
23 May Bulgaria v Rep. Ireland
6 June Bulgaria v England
Denmark v N. Ireland
12 Sep England v Denmark
17 Oct Rep. Ireland v Bulgaria
N. Ireland v England
31 Oct Bulgaria v Denmark
21 Nov England v Bulgaria
N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland
1980
6 Feb England v Rep. Ireland

Group Two

1978
30 Aug Norway v Austria
20 Sep Belgium v Norway
Austria v Scotland
11 Oct Portugal v Belgium
25 Oct Scotland v Norway
15 Nov Austria v Portugal
29 Nov Portugal v Scotland
1979
7 Feb Scotland v Belgium
28 Mar Belgium v Austria
2 May Austria v Belgium
10/15 May Norway v Portugal
7 Jun Norway v Scotland
29 Aug Austria v Norway
12 Sep Norway v Belgium
17 Oct Belgium v Portugal
Scotland v Austria
1 Nov Portugal v Norway
21 Nov Belgium v Scotland
Portugal v Austria
1980
6 Feb Scotland v Portugal

Group Three

1978
4 Oct Yugoslavia v Spain
25 Oct Rumania v Yugoslavia
15 Nov Spain v Rumania
13 Dec Spain v Cyprus
1979
1 Apr Cyprus v Yugoslavia
4 Apr Rumania v Spain
13 May Cyprus v Rumania
10 Oct Spain v Yugoslavia
31 Oct Yugoslavia v Rumania
14 Nov Yugoslavia v Cyprus
18 Nov Rumania v Cyprus
9 Dec Cyprus v Spain

Group Four

1978
6 Sep Iceland v Poland
20 Sep Holland v Iceland
4 Oct E. Germany v Iceland
11 Oct Switzerland v Holland
15 Nov Holland v E. Germany
Poland v Switzerland
1979
28 Mar Holland v Switzerland
18 Apr E. Germany v Poland
2 May Poland v Holland
5 May Switzerland v E. Germany
22 May Switzerland v Iceland
9 Jun Iceland v Switzerland
5 Sep Iceland v Holland
12 Sep Iceland v E. Germany
Switzerland v Poland
26 Sep Poland v E. Germany
10 Oct Poland v Iceland

Action from one of this season's European Cup Winners Cup matches between Hajduk Split and Austria Vienna. The game ended 1-1.

have been trotted out for a number of years. And, one is entitled to ask whether the UEFA standard of punishing the club for the abuses of their fans is really working?

For some time it appeared the most practical, if not popular, solution. Glasgow Rangers and Leeds and Real Madrid all felt the sting to a greater or lesser degree. So did Lazio of Rome. But will any action follow the mayhem caused by a minority of the usually responsible Liverpool following?

For these hooligans are no fools, in their warped way. In France, just over a year ago, more than a handful of Liverpool rowdies donned the green favours of Saint-Etienne and did a fine job in picking the pockets of fellow Englishmen streaming to the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard for the Saint-Etienne-Liverpool Champions' Cup game!

Some time ago I wrote in *World Soccer* about the troubled situation on the terraces at Manchester United, whose fans' reputation is notorious. The only solution of substance arrived at by several other clubs to prevent trouble was to refuse United match tickets.

Will this become the trend in Europe? There certainly are those in high places who have no desire to see English fans crossing the Channel in ships or boats ever again.

It is too easy to say, as Bangerter does: "Unless there are stricter punishments handed down by the public authorities responsible in cases of crowd misbehaviour, there can hardly be any hope of coming to grips with the problem."

It's not enough, I believe, for football to put the burden of responsibility on governments. For one thing, the due process of legislation and law-making can take several years before magistrates are given the power to impose stiffer penalties.

Football should not rest until every lead has been given. After all, football provides the stage for the hooligans, so football has the prime responsibility for trying to spare the havoc brought upon so many innocent shopkeepers and bystanders.

Bangerter notes that UEFA have been working together with the West German and English football authorities to draw up guidelines and recommendations, most of which were circulated to national associations at the start of the season. These related in particular to crowd organisation and segregation and ticket distribution, but the Saint-Etienne v Manchester United Cup-winners' tie proved that without clubs making a special effort, these guidelines are far from foolproof.

I have to remain pessimistic, too, that UEFA should have been working with the English FA. After all, sad to say, but England has been notably ineffective in quelling the hooligan menace.

Still, Bangerter reports a general improvement in order and discipline in stadia and that all eight UEFA club competition finals covered by the report had gone off without incident.

Good. But don't let up!

And it is similarly depressing — and is it all tied up? — to read Bangerter's comments further on about on-the-field discipline. UEFA's disciplinary bodies have certainly been more severe in the past few years, and while the number of cautions has dropped by about 8 per cent, the number of expulsions remains about the same.

Also, there has been an increase in the number of expulsions in international matches.

Bangerter says: "This trend may well be attributed primarily to the disproportionately high bonus sometimes offered to a team in return for success in a certain competition."

One is tempted to comment that the higher the bonus the greater the incentive for the players all to stay on the pitch!

Control

My own feeling is that in the mid-sixties refereeing and disciplinary control was allowed to relax; the element of self-control was allowed to disappear and players were encouraged more than ever before to believe that in the name of victory anything goes.

I was appalled, watching an English soccer programme recently, to hear the commentator say, as a defender leapt acrobatically upwards to punch away a goal-bound shot: "What else could he do?".

The simple answer is that if a player is not prepared to pay some semblance of respect to the laws of the game, then the game is better off without him.

That phrase about "the professional foul" is no more than an attempt to legalise thuggery. And I'm afraid that, having once let discipline and self-discipline slip, soccer's authorities are fighting a losing battle in trying to put the referee back on his dignity.

● *Continued on page 54*

rship 1978-80

13 Oct	E. Germany v Switzerland
17 Oct	Holland v Poland
21 Nov	E. Germany v Holland

Group Five

1978	
2 Sep	France v Sweden
4 Oct	Sweden v Czechoslovakia (holders)
7 Oct	Luxembourg v France
1979	
18 Feb	France v Luxembourg
4 Apr	Czechoslovakia v France
1 May	Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia
6/13 May	Sweden v Luxembourg
5 Sep	Sweden v France
10 Oct	Czechoslovakia v Sweden
23 Oct	Luxembourg v Sweden
17 Nov	France v Czechoslovakia
24 Nov	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg

Group Six

1978	
24 May	Finland v Greece
20 Sep	Finland v Hungary
	Russia v Greece
11 Oct	Hungary v Russia
	Greece v Finland
28 Oct	Greece v Hungary
1979	
2 May	Hungary v Greece
19 May	Russia v Hungary
4 July	Finland v Russia
12 Sep	Greece v Russia
17 Oct	Hungary v Finland
31 Oct	Russia v Finland

Group Seven

1978	
25 Oct	Wales v Malta
29 Nov	Wales v Turkey
1979	
25 Feb	Malta v W. Germany
1 Apr	Turkey v W. Germany
2 May	Wales v W. Germany
2 Jun	Malta v Wales
17 Oct	W. Germany v Wales
21 Nov	Turkey v Wales
22 Dec	W. Germany v Turkey
1980	
27 Feb	W. Germany v Malta

NB — Malta and Turkey have still to settle dates.

WORLD CUP C

Herrara says . . . one of the best!

ONE OF the best World Cups of them all — that's the bright forecast from Helenio Herrera.

The Argentine-born Frenchman gave up coaching after a heart attack four years ago and now works as a journalist — the part-time role which has taken him to all of the recent finals tournaments. Herrer, now 62, was only once a finals manager, in 1962 with Spain in Chile.

He says: "These finals have the strongest mixture of teams ever at this stage, so they must be good."

One of his special interests is, of course, Italy, whom he once led and where he has lived since 1960. But though he thinks they'll qualify for the second round, along with Argentina from group one, he doesn't rate their chances of winning.

"The championship in Italy doesn't finish until May and the players will be too tired," he said.

Not that anyone is too certain about the stadium in which they must play some of their games, the River Plate ground which is being enlarged to a capacity of 77,260 to stage the opening match as well as third place and final showpieces.

With three months to go the new pitch, which had cost £300,000 last year, had to be dug up after a mixture of drainage and fertiliser problems burned off the grass. Now a new pitch is being put down in double quick time, but it will be interesting to see what condition it is in when the finals begin.

Some qualified good news is a claim that the Montoneros guerrillas will allow the finals to go off in peace.

A man named Rodolfo Galimberti, claiming to be one of their leaders, said in an interview with a Paris newspaper that they will call a halt to hostilities during the finals, and then stage "a partial insurrection" afterwards.

He also claimed that staff in most top hotels had been replaced by police spies specifically to prevent the Montoneros launching "operations which would endanger players or journalists".

That will all be good news for a number of men passing as both. It seems Lev Yashin, Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton, Raymond Kopa, Just Fontaine, Gigi Riva, Bellini, Mauro, Pele, Leivinha, Uwe Seeler, Günter Netzer, Jürgen Grabowski, Roberto Perfumo, Florian Albert and several other great names will be there at the behest of the world's Press.

Also attending, of course, will be all football's senior administrators, headed by FIFA president Joao Havelange, who will be unopposed at the presidency elections just before the finals. He thus continues for a second four-year term. And then who?

The tip is Italy's Artemio Franchi, who is to retain his UEFA presidency, being himself unopposed, and who has lately been impressing the Asian nations with a scheme to replace the outdated continent-by-continent qualifying system with a worldwide, jet-age tournament.

It was a course again propounded by FIFA secretary Rene Courte in a news release recently, but the chances of its operating in time to decide anything for Spain 1982 are remote.

ARGENTINA

AFTER all the criticism, manager Cesar Menotti must have been well pleased with the first results from the warm-up programme leading to the finals.

Victories over Peru (2-1 at home, 3-1 away), Bulgaria (3-1) and Romania (2-0) put Menotti back in the fans' good books as he approaches the most important World Cup campaign in Argentine soccer history.

The matches against Peru were for the Ramon Castilla Cup, and replaced the Roca Cup games called off by Brazil — who, now, incidentally, have decided they would like to play Argentina before the finals after all!

First Menotti sent out his men for a trial against a Mar del Plata XI, a game won 5-0 with goals from Houseman, Villa, Bertoni, Passarella and Ardiles.

Passarella is emerging as the new strong man, having taken over from deserter Jorge Carrascosa as captain. He was in good form in the 2-1 win over Peru in Buenos Aires, a victory made possible by goals from the dangerous Housemen (40) and a long shot from defender Ruben Pagnanini (66). Percy Rojas got a last-minute consolation for Peru.

Argentina: Fillol — Pagnanini, Luis Galvan, Passarella, Bottaniz — Ardiles, Gallego, Valencia — Houseman, Luque, Ortiz.

Peru: Quiroga — Navarro, Leguia, Chumpitaz, Diaz — Gorriti, Velazquez, Cubillas — Mosquera, Rojas, Oblitas.

For the return Peru had Quesada for Gorriti, while the Argentines were unchanged, and dominated from the seventh minute when River Plate centre forward Leopoldo Luque put them ahead. Rojas missed a good chance soon after when Ubaldo Fillol was lucky to block a Chumpitaz free kick, and in the 24th minute Passarella put Argentina 2-0 from the penalty spot after Chumpitaz brought down Ortiz.

The Peruvians replied through Juan Carlos Oblitas (54), and Argentina made the game safe with yet another goal from Rene Houseman ten minutes from time.

Against Bulgaria, back in the Boca Juniors Bombonera, Menotti used Tarantini at left back instead of Bottaniz, and gave recently-injured Daniel Bertoni a run out as a second-half substitute for Ortiz. But by then the game was already tied up. Gallego (nine), Ortiz (13) and Ardiles (66) scored for the hosts, with Grantcharov pulling one back for a young Bulgarian side looking ahead to their European championship duel with England.

Menotti swapped his other full back for the game with Rumania. Pagnanini dropped out to make way for Jorge Olguin of San Lorenzo, and this move seemed to strengthen the defence. In fact it was Olguin who made the first goal — Passarella heading in his corner, then making it 2-0 with a 35-yard free kick. This time Bertoni played the whole game, otherwise the team was the usual one.

Soon after Menotti announced his squad of 40: — Goalkeepers — Ubaldo Fillol, Hector Baley, Ricardo La Volpe, Agustin Cejas. Defenders — Alberto Tarantini, Ruben Pagnanini, Vicente Pernia, Victor Bottaniz, Edgardo Fernandez, Daniel Passarella, Daniel Killer, Armando Capurro, Roberto Mouzo, Luis Galvan, Osvaldo Piazza, Hugo Villaverde, Jorge Olguin. Midfield — Miguel Oviedo, Ruben Galvan, America Gallego, Pedro Larraquy, Omar Larrosa, Osvaldo Ardiles, Jorge Ribolzi, Juan Jose Lopez, Daniel Valencia, Ricardo Villa, Diego Maradona, Ricardo Bochini, Norberto Alonso, Juan Rocha. Forwards — Rene Houseman, Daniel Bertoni, Ernesto Mastrangelo, Leopoldo Luque, Humberto Bravo, Pedro Roldan, Norberto Outes, Mario Kempes, Oscar Ortiz.

Thus Quique Wolff of Real Madrid is excluded, and though Osvaldo Piazza of Saint-Etienne is included, his appearance in the finals is in doubt. Hardly had he arrived in Buenos Aires after obtaining his release from France than he flew back after his wife was injured in a car crash.

OUNTDOWN

WORLD SOCCER'S monthly round-up of the 16 finalists

Argentina '78

HUNGARY

IT'S HARD to see how Hungary's squad are fitting in their weekly get-togethers with the league running on a two-match-per-week basis, but they squeezed in a 6-1 win recently over a second division selection, which all helps manager Lajos Baroti.

The only first half goal came from a Bela Varadi free kick, but in the second half the new Magyars put it together, with five more scores from Andras Torocsik (two), Tibor Nyilasi, Laszlo Fazekas, and Sandor Pinter.

Team: Gujdar (Drury) — Torok (Martos), Kocsis, Kereki (Bokiny), Toth — Nyilasi, Pinter, Zombori — Fazekas, Torocsik, Varadi.

Nyilasi, Varadi and Laszlo Pusztai have all been accused lately of being out of form just at the wrong time, while Sandor Gujdar, footballer of the year in one poll, was below his best too in the worst possible game.

The Honved goalkeeper was beaten three times in a 3-2 defeat by Ujpest which was enough to carry them one point clear of Honved at the top.

Meanwhile, as the players returned to their league concerns, the FA's planning for Argentina continued with a senior official, Jozsef Krizsan, visiting Buenos Aires to check on facilities at the Hungarians' chosen headquarters and the stadia.

HOLLAND

THE sideshows along the way seem to be attracting more attention than the central effort of getting the team together.

The warm-up programme goes virtually unnoticed, and ancillary issues get the publicity — which could well be to the liking of coach Ernst Happel.

Not that he's having much luck. He's repeatedly had to alter squads because of injury, and the latest upset is the arm injury suffered in a French league match by Johnny Rep. This came on top of reports that Rep was about to pull out of the World Cup squad.

Finally, for the friendly against Tunisia, Happel included Twente forward Piet Wildschut, and Wildschut justified his selection by then grabbing Twente's only goal in the 3-1 league defeat which confirmed PSV Eindhoven as unbeatable champions. Holland won 4-0.

Holland's squad: Goal — Schryvers (Ajax), Joegbloed (Roda). Defence — Suurbier (Schalke), Krol (Ajax), Rijsbergen (Feyenoord), van Kraay (PSV). Midfield and attack — Jansen (Feyenoord), A. Muhren, Wildschut (Twente), Vermeulen, Nanninga (Roda), W. and R. van der Kerkhof (PSV) Boskamp (RWD Molenbeek) and Van Leuwen (Den Haag).

In Spain Johan Neeskens proved himself in combative form — earning a booking in one of his first comeback games after a three-month injury lay-off. But as for Johan Cruyff . . .? He says he's turned down a million-dollar Cosmos bid, and the latest suitors are the Japanese sports equipment firm, Pony, who want to pay him £300,000 to play the finals in their kit.

In the face of all this, it's hardly surprising only 11 per cent of Dutchmen — according to a recent poll — fancy their team's chances.

The KNVB, nevertheless, are taking everything with the greatest care. It appears they have asked the Argentine authorities if they can bring their own bodyguards.

IRAN

IRAN are beginning their warm-up comparatively late, starting an eight-match programme with a 0-0 draw against Yugoslavia in Tehran.

The match was so littered with chances at both ends that the score could have been 5-5, and that underlined one particular problem for Iran — the failure of top forward Hassan Rowshan to recover yet from his cartilage operation.

Also missing from this game were goalkeeper Nasser Hedjazi, and defender Hassan Nazari.

Iran's schedule includes a booking to appear in the annual Paris tournament in mid-May when their rivals will include World Cup opponents Holland.

AUSTRIA

AUSTRIAN football hasn't enjoyed a season like it for years – with FK Austria challenging for a place in the Cup-Winners' Cup Final, the national team in the World Cup Finals, and Hans Krankl's reputation spreading through Europe as he rampages through the league.

Krankl's left foot has so far taken him to 33 goals in 31 league games for Rapid, and one hat-trick was enough to get Linz manager Willi Huberts the sack.

Not that Krankl impressed Dutch boss Ernest Happel in Austria's 1-0 defeat in Belgium. "I wouldn't pay much for him," said Happel after a 40th-minute Gavers goal had destroyed Austria's two-year invincibility.

Belgium: Pfaff — Renquin, Broos, Meuwis, Baecke — Coors, Vercauteren (Vandereycken), Coeck (Verheyen) — Van der Elst, Gaults, Dardenne (Cluyten).

Herbert Prohaska of Austria.

Austria: Koncilia (Fuschabichler) — Sara (Weber), Pezzey, Obermaier, Breitenberger — Prohaska, Happich, Hickersberger — Oberacher, Krankl, Riedl (Parlour).

The Austrians' problem is finding partners for Krankl. Manager Helmut Senekowitsch has tried 15 forwards in 18 months. Favourite supporting actor at the moment is Walter Schachner, from second division Alpine Donowitz, who is negotiating a post-finals move to Hertha Berlin.

Plenty of Austrians are in the Bundesliga, including Josef Hickersberger, at Fortuna Düsseldorf. But he is one of the few Austrians sounding a note of caution.

"Everyone seems to think we're already in the last eight," he said. "But we're not playing well enough. We need to recapture the form which took us past East Germany in the qualifiers."

Innsbruck sweeper Bruno Pezzey could soon be Germany-bound too, with Eintracht Frankfurt, while good reports are seeping through about FK Austria goalkeeper Hubert Baumgartner. He's Austria's No 3 behind Koncilia and Fuchsbichler, but impressed a lot of people with three vital penalty saves against Hajduk Split in the Cup-winners' Cup quarter finals.

World Cup Countdown continued on pages 46/47

ENGLISH ORIGIN RECORD IN SWI

Club Focus on GRASSHOPPERS

by Keir Radnedge

GRASSHOPPERS of Zurich may not be one of Europe's greater teams — though that's not to dismiss their UEFA Cup run this season — but by virtue of their name they'll always stand out in whatever competition they take part!

The background to the club is English, but though Grasshoppers claim more league and cup success than any other Swiss club, their achievements in recent years have been less than outstanding.

For instance, it's seven years almost since they last won the league, and 22 years since they beat Young Boys of Berne 1-0 to win the cup for the last time.

Yet, with 16 championships to their credit Grasshoppers remain three clear of the Geneva club, Servette, and with 13 victories in the cup — clearly an unlucky number — are way out in front of Chaux-de-Fonds, with six.

But, as ever, a football club's success is judged by present results and this season Grasshoppers have shown a swing for the better. It's part of the trend evident under the presidency of Karl Oberholzer. Third in 1972, runners-up in 1973 and 1974, and third again in 1975, Grasshoppers were fourth in 1976 and last season, but led the way going into this year's confused championship play-offs.

For the past two years the Swiss, to increase interest, have split the league in half come the spring, with the top clubs playing off to decide the championship, and the lower clubs to decide who goes down. To confuse the issue, the clubs take *half* their points from the full programme with them.

This time Grasshoppers finished top going into the play-offs, having won 22 of their 34 games, with four drawn and only three lost.

They had conceded 27 goals, but provided far and away the best attack, with 69-16 more than Basle. Yet they completed their preliminary programme only one point clear of Servette and the stage was clearly set for an exciting run-in.

As I write the question remains whether Grasshoppers will fall between two stools, for the pressure will certainly be on in both championship and UEFA Cup, where they had now reached uncharted territory, never previously having reached the last four of any UEFA club tournament.

Yet Grasshoppers remain one of the oldest Swiss clubs. Founded by a group of students — mainly English — in 1886, only St Gallen (1879) now claim to go back further. And it was a measure of the influence achieved early on by Grasshoppers that their leading light, Vienna-born Emil Westermann, became in 1895 the first president of the organisation now known as the Schweizerischer Fussballverband, of Association suisse de football, or Associazione Svizzera di football — depending on which canton you live in!

Westermann served as president for three years, and it was in that last term of office that the Swiss launched a league competition, and that Grasshoppers came out on top.

Already, from this team line-up from that first triumph, you can se how the English influence had already been eroded: Ott — Bosshard Suter — Mende, Schmid, Doll — Simonius, van Delden, Blijdenstein Wenner, and Landolt.

Suter, Blijdenstein and Landolt all appeared on December 4, 189 in the first Swiss representative match — a 3-1 win over a Soutl German XI.

There were more league successes in 1900, 1901, 1905 and then after the first world war, in 1921, before a secondary competition wa introduced — a knock-out challenge cup.

Appropriately enough, just as Grasshoppers had been first winner of the championship, so they were first winners of the cup, beating FC Bern 2-1 in the final, and going one better the next year to score a cu and league double. This time their victims in the final were Youn Fellows, beaten 3-1.

The 1930s were the golden years for Grasshoppers, providing a healthy mixture of cup and league success as well as a number o outstanding players who wrote their names into the legend of Swis football with their exploits in the World Cup Finals of 1934 and 1938 — and, in one case, far beyond that.

Grasshoppers were champions again in 1928, 1931, 1937 and 1939 and cup-winners in 1932 (beating Urania Sports 5-1), 1934 (beating Servette 2-0), 1937 (thrashing Lausanne-Sports 10-0 — a fitting climax to another 'double' season) and 1938 (beating Servette again, this time 5-1).

Briefly, let's recall five outstanding names from that era.

Two were full backs, three forwards. And the one full back was Karl Rappan, born in Vienna on September 26, 1905, and who could play for both Grasshoppers and Servette before turning to coaching and making his name by devising the 'Swiss bolt' defence and leading the Swiss to the quarter finals when they were World Cup hosts in 1954, as well as to the 1962 finals in Chile.

The other full back was the man who set the long-time record for the number of international caps won by a Swiss player — Severino Minelli. He played 79 times for Switzerland in the 1930s, having been born on September 6, 1909. Minelli played right back in the 1934 World Cup in Italy, and was left back and captain in the 1938 tournament in France.

Also in those teams were three fine forwards in Alfred Bickel — a right-winger whose career lasted until he was 39 — and two inside forwards in Eugen Amado, and perhaps the best-known of Switzerland's pre-war footballers, André 'Trello' Abegglen.

Bickel played for Switzerland 71 times, Amado on 54 occasions, but it was Abegglen who stole the thunder in the World Cup. An inside forward, a member of a famous footballing family — brother Max played for Servette — Abegglen was three times champion of Switzerland with Grasshoppers and Servette, and also won a league title in France with Sochaux.

Neatly built, an intelligent organiser of play, he could also score goals handily enough. It was from a penalty that he hit one of the goals which beat England 2-1 in 1938, and he also scored in the 3-2 defeat by Czechoslovakia in the 1934 World Cup. The Czechs went on, of course, to the final.

He was on target, too, in the 1938 finals. In the first round the Swiss were drawn against Greater Germany. Unfancied, they drew 1-1 thanks to Abegglen's equaliser. That meant a replay, and the Swiss seemed lost when Minelli was carried off after a bad foul by the Germans' Austrian winger, Hans Pesser.

WORLD CUP CHART

Wall Chart 17in x 24in giving detailed history of the teams competing, how they qualified, their grouping, the dates and fixtures of final games, and a progress chart to be completed.

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APEX WALL CHARTS,
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AND BEST ZERLAND

Even worse, at half-time they were also 2-0 down. Yet remarkably, with Abegglen scoring twice, they hit back to win 4-2, only to lose 2-0 to Hungary in the next round. Hungary, like the Czechs in 1934, went on to become losing finalists.

Perhaps it might have been different had Minelli's injury not forced him to miss the Hungary game. With his vast experience — in his career he won eight cup and six league titles with Servette, Grasshoppers and FC Zurich — he was much missed.

Football continued in Switzerland while the world outside was embroiled in the second world war, and Grasshoppers maintained their monopoly. They won the cup in 1940 (2-0 v Grenchen) and 1941 (2-0 v Servette) and then claimed two cup and league doubles in 1942 and 1943. First time they beat Basle 2-1 in the final, then Lugano by the same score.

Champions again in 1945 and cup-winners in 1946 (3-0 v Lausanne), Grasshoppers didn't know it, but their great era was drawing to a close. They won the league again in 1952, 1956 and 1971, and the cup again in 1952 (2-0 v Lugano) and 1956 (1-0 v Young Boys) — each time to claim the double — but ironically, just as the European club competitions provided vastly increased rewards for domestic triumphs, so Grasshoppers were overtaken in Switzerland by neighbours FC Zurich, by old rivals Servette, and by Basle.

They have, of course, competed in Europe, and frequently in recent years thanks to the Fairs and UEFA Cups. But, until this season, they had left very little by which to remember them.

Their two forays into the Champions' Cup lasted two rounds each. In 1956-57 they first faced Slovan Bratislava, the useful Slovak side including goalkeeper Villem Schroif and a thoughtful half back named Josef Venglos who would become much better-known later as a coach. Beaten 1-0 in Bratislava, Grasshoppers turned the tie round with a 2-0 win in their own 35,000-capacity Hardturn stadium.

But that matched them, in the quarter finals, with Fiorentina. Beaten 3-1 in Italy, Grasshoppers did well to score twice against the Italians' exceptional defence in Zurich, but Fiorentina scored twice also.

That was that until the autumn of 1971. The Finns of Reipas Lahti were easy meat. Rainer Ohlhauser, who won a Cup-winners' Cup medal with Bayern Munich in 1967, was now with Grasshoppers, and he scored in Finland, in the 1-1 draw, while the young Swiss centre forward Kudi Müller — later of Hertha Berlin and Servette — hit four in the 8-0 win at home.

But Arsenal in the next round was the last stop.

Coach Rene Hüssy — a member of the 1956-57 Champions' Cup forward line and later National Coach — gambled on switching Ohlhauser back to sweeper for the first leg, at home. Ohlhauser didn't have a bad game, but these tactics were too subtle for his team-mates. Arsenal were 2-0 up in five minutes and won the return 3-0 — though Peter Meier was unlucky to have a 'goal' disallowed on the hour.

In the Fairs/UEFA Cups Grasshoppers haven't even always ventured as far as the second round.

In 1969, 1971, 1974 and 1976 they went out at the first stage — to Napoli, Dundee United, Tottenham and San Sebastian respectively. In 1973 Ararat Erevan beat them in the second round, as did Zaragoza in the 1975 and Köln in the 1977 competitions.

It was left to this season to take them on to the last four — beating Frem Copenhagen 6-1, 2-0; Inter Bratislava 5-1, 0-1; Dynamo Thilisi 4-0, 0-1; and, surprisingly, Eintracht Frankfurt 1-0, 2-3 thanks to the away goals. The grand total in Europe? — Played 35, won 13, drawn 5, lost 17, goals for 66, goals against 60.

So what has happened in the last two years to lift Grasshoppers out of the part-time mediocrity which generally marks Swiss displays in Europe?

The story goes back two years, when the board decided that without ambition the club would drift along, perpetually second-rate. So they engaged one outstanding West German as coach, and another as player.

The coach was Helmuth Johannsen, the man whose greatest success had been to take shoestring outsiders Eintracht Braunschweig to the West German league title in 1967. The player was none other than

GRASSHOPPERS' SQUAD

Goalkeepers:	Born	Job	Prev. club	Sngd	Intl
Roger Berbig	6-11-54	Medical student	—	—	Swz A
Roland Inderbitzin	12-7-49	Clerk	Lucerne	1977	—
Defenders:					
Jonny Hey	21-9-49	—	Arm. Bielefeld	1977	—
Kurt Becker	2-10-51	Teacher	—	—	Swz jun.
Francis Montandon	3-9-51	Mechanic	Bevillard	1971	—
Thomas Niggi	2-2-52	Clerk	—	—	Swz A
Rene Nafziger	3-1-56	Clerk	—	—	Swz jun.
Bruno Kaufmann	27-8-55	Butcher	Nordstern	1977	—
Roger Piccand	14-11-50	Clerk	Lausanne	1977	—
Midfield:					
Richard Bauer	10-3-53	Locksmith	FC Seefeld	1973	—
Alfons Bosco	2-10-52	Electrician	Lucerne	1974	—
Heinz Hermann	28-3-58	Clerk	FC Seefeld	1977	—
Andre Meyer	29-10-49	Clerk	Lucerne	1970	Swz A
Raimondo Ponte	6-4-55	Clerk	Windisch	1974	—
Roger Wehrli	18-3-56	Bricklayer	Winterthur	1977	Swz A
Strikers:					
Hansjörg Baumgartner	12-11-53	Painter	Red Star Z.	1977	—
Oscar Boulli	21-10-55	Traveller	FC Seefeld	1977	—
Manuel Corda	23-8-57	Clerk	—	—	—
Rudolf Elsener	18-2-53	Clerk	FC Industrie	1970	Swz A
Claudio Sulser	8-10-55	PT student	Vevey-Sports	1970	Swz A

Günter Netzer, formerly the star and turning wheel of Borussia Moenchengladbach and Real Madrid, who was winding down a great career which had reached a peak in West Germany's European championship triumph of 1972.

Johannsen was not immediately appreciated. Indeed, his insistence on hard work in training and defensive discipline on the pitch were not to the liking of several players.

Grasshoppers had been used to their forwards expressing themselves as they felt fit. In that way Marko Vukosaljevic had top-scored with 33 goals in the league in 1956, Hans Robbiani had imitated him with 27 in 1961, and Rolf Blattler had topped the scoring lists in three successive years from 1965 with 19, 28 and 24 goals.

The Yugoslav, Slobodan Santrac, had top-scored in the 1974 Inter-toto competition, with the freedom from joint coaches Istvan Szabo — ex-Zurich — and Erich Vogel, to play much as he liked.

But that is not Johannsen's way and he immediately met opposition from the players. The initial result was the temporary dropping of Rudi Elsener, Claudio Sulser and 'Bigi' Meyer and the transfers of Walter Seiler and former Young Boys star, Marcel Cornioley.

Now, having demonstrated his ruthlessness last season, Johannsen's work is bearing fruit even though Netzer is no longer there. He retired last summer; though he did play during Grasshoppers' catastrophic winter break tour of Mid-America and is still on their books as a player, despite having become Hamburg general manager.

And, under Johannsen's iron hand, so Grasshoppers have developed the Swiss season's outstanding player in Raimondo Ponte. Like several outstanding players to shine in recent seasons — Franco Cucinotti at Zurich, Umberto Barberis at Sion, then Grasshoppers, now Servette — Ponte was born in Italy. In Naples, in fact, moving to Switzerland with the family when he was eight.

Now 23, he played first with FC Windisch before joining Grasshoppers in 1974. Now he's their hottest property. He's converted four penalties in the UEFA Cup this season, and been compared with Kevin Keegan for his busy, skilful style.

Ponte is among the first to admit that Johannsen's methods are somewhat too practical for him, but, as he will also add: "They do work . . ."

Grasshoppers are a multi-sport club, but it is football which grabs most of the limelight and gets the biggest chunk of the budget. Over the years some useful foreign players have been taken on, including Ove Grahan, the one-time Elfsborg midfielder who provided a stabilising influence in midfield until, nearing the veteran stage, he was badly hurt in a Sweden-Norway international.

Now there is only one foreigner, German sweeper Jonny Hey, while Grasshoppers' improvement was emphasised when national manager Roger Vonlanthen called six of their players into his squad for the recent friendly with East Germany.

Thomas Niggi — one half of identical twins who both played at one time for Grasshoppers — is now left back representing the older school, while 20-year-old Heinz Hermann has made the most of his chance after injury to Richard Bauer.

But it's up front that Grasshoppers are sharpest — particularly when they catch their opponents too far upfield. In Claudio Sulser — who once scored three goals in four minutes in a league game — Ponte and the skilful, slightly-built Elsener, they have a quick-witted attack made to measure for Johannsen's tactics.

Johannsen, 57 years old, who came to Grasshoppers from Tennis Borussia Berlin, has done well with Grasshoppers and earned the respect of his players — who call him 'Johnny Cash' behind his back, because of the timbre of his voice.

Nothing but the best will do for him in his efforts to bring success. That's why the masseur, Hans Branner, used to be with top cyclist Eddy Merckx. But only the best for Grasshoppers means a new 'golden age'; and that is asking a lot.

by DERICK ALLSOP

No goals — Iran and Yugoslavia

IRAN opened their pre-World Cup programme by holding Yugoslavia to a goalless draw in Teheran with a side considerably below strength.

Two of their outstanding players, defender Hassan Nazari and forward Hassan Roshan, were among the absentees, but the Iranians still had most of the play.

They were let down, however, by a familiar weakness – lack of finishing power. A disciplined Yugoslav defence showed them little sympathy and left the home crowd frustrated.

Goals have never gushed like the oil in Iran and even during the qualifying stages of the World Cup they were unable to thrash teams that were clearly outclassed.

The one man who has revealed an exceptional talent in attack is 22-year-old Roshan and that's why his continued absence is causing deep concern in the Iranian camp.

He scored crucial goals in the Asia-Oceania group before a cartilage operation put him out of action. Iran completed the business of qualifying without him but banked on his return during the current warm-up matches.

He had an operation in West Germany and although the Iranians were confident of a swift recovery he was still not ready when his team-mates lined up against Yugoslavia.

Batch of friendlies

Iran know Roshan could play a vital part for them in Argentina and as much is expected of Nazari, who has already impressed many European teams with his cool and enterprising full-back displays.

The batch of friendlies offered Iran the chance to try the gifted Nazari in midfield, to support Ali Parvin, but that plan had to be shelved against the Yugoslavs.

The match at least gave Iran the opportunity to throw in some of the less experienced players and test their belief that the standard of the youngsters is improving all the time.

It is worth recalling that when the qualifying group was won, Iran went to Kuwait with nine reserves and still won 2-1.

The Iranians assembled at their World Cup training camp, on the outskirts of Teheran, in March and will be based there until their departure for South America. Parvis Gheleechkhani, their former captain now playing for San Jose Earthquakes, will catch up with them shortly before the finals.

After the Yugoslavia match the Iranians began preparations for their Teheran meeting with Wales, which coach Heshmat Mohajerani believed would give them a sample of the pace and strength Scotland will confront them with in Argentina.

Mohajerani is also making close checks on the progress of Scotland, Holland and Peru. He plans to see the Scots in action during the Home International Championship.

Hassan Roshan, who missed the match against Yugoslavia.

UEFA CUP FINAL

PSV versus Bastia

April 26 and May 9

BASTIA'S remarkable run, to become only the third French team ever to reach a European final — after Reims and Saint-Etienne — looks unlikely to end in triumph.

Despite the remarkable resilience and skill they've shown, I can't believe they have it hidden within them to beat PSV Eindhoven — particularly since the Corsican leg will, for reasons of crowd size and safety, be taken away from their own magical Furiani to Marseille, if not Paris.

Bastia have some good players. Papi is the key man in midfield, while Orlanducci is a strong defender, and the Moroccan Krimau an unorthodox raider. But the question remains unanswered as yet as to whether Johnny Rep will have recovered from his arm injury in time to play the final.

Rep must be Bastia's only hope. He gives confidence to his team-mates, and much-needed skill to the attack.

But this time, the winning Dutchmen are likely to be on the other side. It's ironic that it is only the absence now of Ralf Edström that PSV are on the verge of fulfilling their European potential by landing their first trophy, but there remains a great deal of skill, class and experience.

PSV Eindhoven (probable): Van Beveren — Krijgh, Van Kraay, Stevens, Brandts — Willy Van der Kerkhof, Poortvliet, Van der Kuylen — Lubse, Deijkers, Rene Van der Kerkhof.

Bastia (probable): Huard — Cazes, Orlanducci (capt), Guesdon, Marchioni — Lacuesta, Krimau, Papi — Rep, Felix, Marlot.

UEFA CUP

Semi-finals, first legs

Grasshoppers Zurich 3 (Hermann 20, Porto 31 pen, Montandon 54)
Bastia 2 (Krimau 16, Papi 33 pen)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** John Carpenter (Ireland). **Att:** 35,000.

Bastia settled into their attacking style quicker than the Swiss, and Krimau and 'Fantan' Felix both had chances before Krimau, the Moroccan centre forward, put them ahead and a beautiful through pass from Felix Lacuesta.

Yet within two minutes Grasshoppers were level. Johnny Hey came forward on a slalom out of defence, before sending Heinz Hermann in for the equaliser.

Bastia, beaten only once in their previous eight ties, continued to press forward, but in the 31st minute Guesdon brought down Wehrli, and Raimondo Porto tired home the penalty for Grasshoppers. Guesdon was later booked for a foul on Hey, and was thus condemned to miss the return, this having been his second caution.

Two minutes after Grasshoppers' penalty, Bastia were awarded one. Becker pushed into Johnny Rep, and Claude Papi made no mistake from the spot.

Grasshoppers winner came after nine minutes of the second half. Francis Montandon heading in a corner, a goal which "gives us a good chance of a place in the final," according to coach Helmuth Johannsen.

PSV Eindhoven 3 (Olmo own goal 9, Lubse 21, Postuma 70)
Barcelona 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Sergio Gonella (Italy). **Att:** 29,000

PSV, unbeaten in the league, took a massive step towards their first European, despite losing Dutch exiles Johan Neeskens and Johan Cruyff surged against them.

But the Spaniards had only poor defensive work to blame. After nine minutes, Harry Lubse crossed from the left, and World Cup defender Antonio Olmo sent a brilliant diving header soaring past his own goalkeeper.

Some 12 minutes later and Lubse went through on his own for a second, and surprising lack of technique by right back Jose Antonio Ramos provided the third on a plate later in the second half for substitute Paul Postuma on for Willy van der Kuylen.

Semi-finals — second leg

Barcelona 3 (Rexach 9 pen and 66 pen, Fortes 19)
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Deacy 47)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Robert Wurtz (France). **Att:** 80,000
PSV win 4-3 on agg

NICK DEACY, the Welshman PSV picked out of the reserves of third division Hereford in the English league, was their hero after his face-saving, tie-saving goal.

After nine minutes Cruyff was pulled down in the PSV penalty box, and Carlos Rexach shot in the spot kick. Ten minutes later Cruyff set up the second for Francisco Fortes.

It was all Barcelona, but two minutes after the break Deacy on as a substitute for Postuma, scored his all-important goal. Barcelona now needed three more to win outright, and though another foul on Cruyff brought another spot kick goal for Rexach, the task was beyond them.

Bastia 1 (Papi 67)
Grasshoppers Zurich 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Pat Partridge (England). **Att:** 14,000
Bastia win on away goals – 3-3 on agg

THE town of Bastia, on the isle of Corsica, was totally in the grip of cup fever long before the kick-off.

The pitch had been saturated by rain and the players had great difficulty keeping their feet. In the event it was not surprising that the only goal followed a defensive mistake. Bastia skipper Charles Orlanducci took a free kick into the penalty box. Francis Montandon didn't direct his header, and Claude Papi — lately recalled to the France World Cup squad — beat Berbig for the vital goal.

"AWARD OF THE MONTH"

CRONUS, makers of world renown stopwatches, are to institute an "Award of the Month" to a person, though not necessarily a player, who has made a significant contribution to association football in the preceding month. Readers of this magazine are invited to send in their nominations for a player, manager, referee, supporter or whoever they think might be worthy of receiving a beautiful Cronus watch. Write to: The Editor, World Soccer, 79 Temple Chambers, London EC4Y 0EX with your nominations. Please keep all letters as brief as possible. The Editor's decision shall be final.

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WS1

Arthur Rotmil points out that...

Dutch club football is tops

HOLLAND'S national team, runners-up in the last World Cup and among the favourites for the next series, has made the country a major for world soccer. But contrary to the opinion of so-called experts who, on the evidence of a couple of league games, have been decrying the standar Dutch club football, it is clear, especially this season, that the successes of the national side have rubbed off on the domestic scene.

Three Dutch clubs have reached the quarter-finals of the European competitions — only Spain had as many at that stage. Two Dutch teams, Eindhoven and Twente Enschede, entered the semi-finals — only Belgium could match that number. There would have been a third D representative, but the champions Ajax Amsterdam unluckily lost to Juventus, the favourites for the trophy, on penalties.

The fourth and last Dutch club competing in Europe, 'AZ67' Alkmaar, also went out to mighty Barcelona on penalties — like in Ajax-Juventus tie both legs having ended in 1-1 draws! So much then for the allegedly poor standard of club football in Holland. . . .

These successes are even more praiseworthy in view of the fact that most of the country's best players are now active abroad. From the team which played in the World Cup final in 1974 v. West Germany Cruyff and Neeskens are now in Spain, Haan and Rensenbrink in Belgium, Suurbier in West Germany and Rep in France!

Nevertheless, the Dutch clubs have managed to keep up their high standards: out of 24 European matches this season (up to and including the quarter-finals), the Dutch teams won 17, drew five and were beaten only twice!

Semi-finalists in the UEFA Cup and — as I write — league leaders PSV Eindhoven, are enjoying an outstanding season. They are poised to win their third championship title in four years. This would be a remarkable achievement, for between 1965 and 1974 the Big Two, Ajax and Feyenoord totally dominated the scene and in that period shared the ten titles between them.

But in recent years PSV — the sports club of the world famous electrical giant, the Philips Company — have stepped out of the shadows of their redoubtable rivals. The club owe a lot to their competent team manager Kees Rijvers, a former international (33 caps), who was engaged in 1972.

Support

With generous financial support from the ambitious board of directors, Rijvers was able to buy some outstanding players, like the Van de Kerkhof twins, who came like the manager from FC Twente Enschede. Rene Van de Kerkhof played in fact in the 1974 World Cup final (coming on as a substitute). Now he and Willy are both currently first choice for Holland.

In 1975 and 1976 PSV won the championship of the First Division, called in Holland the Division of Honour (eredivisie). Now their seventh title is in sight.

Eindhoven's closest challengers in the title race and semi-finalists in the Cup Winners' Cup are Twente Enschede. This club from a small provincial town near the German border, operates on modest crowds and a tight budget.

In the past few years they were forced to part with no fewer than five top-class players: the famous twins Rene and Willy Van de Kerkhof, international goalkeeper Piet Schrijvers, midfielder Rene Notten and striker Johan Zuidema — the twins joined PSV Eindhoven, the other three went to Ajax.

Nevertheless, the Twente club under their capable team manager, the Luxembourger Spitz Kohn, have kept their place among the elite. They are indeed an object lesson for the rich clubs from Rotterdam and Amsterdam, who despite expensive transfers have not achieved the same level of success recently.

The present side can still boast a number of outstanding men. Sweeper Epi Drost, midfield schemer Arnold Muhren, formerly of Ajax and the brother of the well-known Gerrit, who was also an Ajax player before moving to Spain.

Another fine midfielder in Twente's ranks is Frans Thijssen, who together with Muhren and Piet Wildschut is in the provincial national squad preparing for the World Cup.

And what of Ajax? Well, the club has lost a lot of its former glory, partly through managerial changes, but mostly due to the migration of its leading stars abroad. The great Ajax side which won the European Cup three years running (1971-73) has almost completely disintegrated: Cruyff, Neeskens and Muhren are in Spain; Suurbier in Germany; Blankenburg in Switzerland; Rep in France and Haan in Belgium.

Rebuilding

The process of rebuilding has taken much longer than expected, and so far the overall results have only been reasonably satisfying at domestic level. Ajax have employed a succession of managers since 1971 — after Rinus Michels, Stefan Kovacs, Georg Knobel, Hans Kraay, Michels again and now the team is being coached by the Yugoslav-born Tomislav Ivic, who has just been released from his contract.

But since each of these managers has had his own ideas on team building, tactics and methods, the lack of continuity has always hampered the development of a new side. It will be interesting to see whether the new team chief can lift the club to its former dominance.

He is Dutch by the name of Cor Brom, w at present manages Sparta Rotterdam, wh he joined in 1976. The little-known coach get a three-year contract in Amesterdam start his duties on July 1.

Of the "old guard" who triumphed Europe three times, there now remains o Ruud Krol converted from left-back into of the finest sweepers in the game. From younger players either bought, or develo in their own ranks, certainly the most exoti Tscheu La Ling, a skilful winger and only

Discovered

As his name indicates La Ling ha Chinese father and a Spanish mother, but was born in Holland and has a Du passport. He began his playing career a 15-year-old with FC Den Haag, where he out with the manager. At the age of 18 Ling was discovered by Cor Coster, father-in-law of Johan Cruyff, who arran for his transfer to Espanol Barcelona £40,000.

But the youngster had trouble with coach again and returned to Holland to j Ajax on a three-year contract. According Dutch law he is a citizen of the Netherla and therefore eligible to represent t country at sport.

La Ling has in fact made the breakthrou into the national team and indeed scored winning goal in Holland's recent 2-1 succe over Israel. And he also scored for Ajax that 1-1 draw with Juventus.

Holland's fourth European contestant 'A 67' Alkmaar is based in a town whose o claim to fame, up till now, has been that o world-renowned cheese market! N Alkmaar have been put on the soccer map

Johan Cruyff (right), in action for Barcelona.

last. 'AZ' was created in 1967 from the amalgamation of two struggling Second Division clubs, Alkmaar and Zaanstreek.

Five years ago, after the team had won promotion, the brothers Klaas and Cees Molenaar, both wealthy industrialists, took over bringing with them a business investment through sponsorship worth about £1 million a year. The club has been making steady progress in the First Division, finished third last year and qualified for the first time for a European competition, the UEFA Cup.

After a resounding victory over Red Boys Differdingen (Luxembourg), on a 16-1 aggregate, Alkmaar twice held the redoubtable Barcelona to 1-1 draws — going out of the tournament on penalties. This was nonetheless a creditable performance which earned praise for manager Hans Kraay, the former stopper with Feyenoord and briefly boss of Ajax, who was engaged by Alkmaar 18 months ago.

Acquisition

The team has recently been strengthened by the acquisition of the famous midfield schemer Wim Van Hanegem, 33, from Feyenoord, who starred in the 1974 World Cup final. Another newcomer is the brilliant Jan Peters, 23 (from NEC Nijmegen), whose two goals beat England at Wembley last year (2-0) and who was then hailed as a "new Johan Cruyff".

That lethal striker, Kees Kist, 27, a leading goalscorer in the "Eredivisie" and full-back Hugo Hovenkamp, 27, are also key players of the talented Alkmaar side, who are clearly the revelation of Dutch football.

● *Continued from page 23*

for Brazil. Pele and his colleagues had their hearts set on winning the Jules Rimet Trophy outright and this they did with goals from Pele himself, Gerson, Jairzinho and skipper Carlos Alberto. Boninsegna scored Italy's consolation.

BRAZIL: Felix — Carlos Alberto, Brito, Piazza, Everaldo — Clodoaldo, Gerson, Rivelino — Jairzinho, Tostao, Pele.

ITALY: Albertosi — Cera — Burgnich, Bertini (Juliano), Rosato, Facchetti — Domenghini, Mazzola, De Sisti — Boninsegna (Rivera), Riva.

Third place — West Germany 1, Uruguay 0

1974 — WEST GERMANY

JUST as 20 years before, so the most outstanding team throughout the finals fell at the last hurdle, and again it was the West Germans who took advantage, as their predecessors had against Hungary in 1954.

Holland, with Johan Cruyff and their 'total football', had swept past Uruguay, Sweden and Bulgaria in the first round, then Brazil, East Germany and Argentina to reach the final.

But here the Ajax Feyenoord mixture which had been good enough to dominate European club soccer since 1970 let them down. After a first-minute penalty awarded by Jack Taylor, the Wolverhampton butcher, and converted by Johan Neeskens, the Dutch sat back.

Instead of trying to rub their advantage home they tried to play with the Germans, tease them in front of their own Munich crowd. And they paid a literal penalty. A spot kick to West Germany, and Paul Breitner equalised, and just before the interval the inevitable, ever-dangerous Gerd Müller pushed in what proved the winner.

Not that the Germans had enjoyed such a straightforward passage. Their team had come to its peak in the 1972 European championship, and manager Schön and skipper Beckenbauer chopped and changed the side in the early games.

The 1-0 defeat by East Germany in Hamburg in the first — and so-far last — meeting between the two zones, seemed the ultimate humiliation at the time. Instead it proved ideal for Beckenbauer and Co. It meant they were kept apart from Holland in the second round and, with the introduction of the hard-tackling midfielder Rainer Bonhof, won well against Sweden, Yugoslavia and Poland to reach the final.

The Poles, surprise victors over England in the qualifiers, reaffirmed the quality which had brought them the Olympic title in Munich two years before when they beat a prosaic, defence-orientated Brazil 1-0 in the third place game with a goal from the tournament's seven-goal top scorer, Grzegorz Lato.

WEST GERMANY: Maier — Vogts, Schwarzenbeck, Beckenbauer, Breitner — Hoeness, Bonhof, Overath — Grabowski, G. Müller, Holzenbein.

HOLLAND: Jongbloed — Suurbier, Rijsbergen (De Jong), Haan, Krol — Jansen, Neeskens, van Hanegem — Rep, Cruyff, Rensenbrink (R. van der Kerkhof).

Third place — Poland 1, Brazil 0

WHERE WILL IT END?

ARGUMENT and controversy still reigns in Italy over the Common Market ruling that foreigners should once again be allowed in league soccer.

While a number of clubs are already sending scouts abroad to size up the possible market, there remains some doubt about the initial number of foreign players to be permitted.

Though the Common Market commission in Brussels laid down a starting point of two per team, there are a number of Italian clubs who aren't happy with that — which was, in point of fact, the situation prevailing for several years before the frontiers were closed in 1964.

Internazionale, as we've already recorded here, have taken out an option on French midfielder Michel Platini — which looks like good business. Juventus are supposed to be toying with offers for Klaus Fischer and Kevin Keegan, while a number of clubs have shown interest in Austrian spearhead Hans Krankl.

But FIGC president, Franco Carraro, says that because of alterations in rules and regulations there will be no imports before 1979, and it has yet to be decided whether the frontiers are opened to just Common Market nationals, or anybody.

There is a lobby in favour of being able to sign South Americans — the bulk of the old import market — because they would cost far less than many of the top-rated Europeans.

Not all the clubs are in favour of foreigners. A recent straw poll indicated that about half the 16 *Serie A* clubs were all for flouting the Common Market orders and staying as they are, thank you very much. They know they wouldn't be able to compete financially with the big-city giants, and that sides such as Cagliari, Perugia, Verona, Cesena and Lanerossi Vicenza would be once more stunted by the old hegemony.

Of the remaining *Serie A* clubs it appeared

Maldera of Italy.

Keir Radne

that only Juventus were in favour of allo
two foreigners per team. The others, su
Inter, Milan and Torino thought the ceili
for the time being at least — should be c

The Italian players' association also ha
say. Surprisingly, perhaps, they are in fa
of a return to the import quota, but th
with only one foreigner lining up per clu
could come from any country inside
outside the Common Market.

Meanwhile the players' association
their eyes on another target, which they
expect to be enforced sooner or late
Common Market order — freedom
contract.

Italian players are among the
restricted in Western Europe. T
registration is held by the club, and if the
wish to transfer the player they are free t
so, and the player cannot refuse unless
terms offered by the prospective purch
are worse than those he is now receivin

It's a little more complex than that, but
gives you the idea.

Now the players are pushing strongly f
freedom of contract arrangement w
would allow the players to have a big sa
whether transfers go through, and, inde
which club they are sold to. And this open
a lot of possibilities hitherto unthinkable

The one major threat, as far as the clubs
concerned, is that it would then be m
easier for Italian players to go abr
themselves! Already there is talk of W

FOREIGN PLAYERS IN ITALY 1946-64

*Players who subsequently played at representative level for Italy

**Foreign players already in Italy before 1946

ALBANIA

*Lushta (Alessandria 1946 — **Kriezlu (Roma 46-47). — 2.

ARGENTINA

Aballay (Genoa 49-50) — Alareon (Genoa 49-50) — Angelillo* (Inter 57-61); Roma 61-64) — Antoninho (Fiorentina 60-61) — Bello (Sampdoria 47-48) — Bovio (Inter 46-47) — Boye (Genoa 49-50) — Calichio (Sampdoria 47-48) — Calvanese (Genoa 59-60; Catania 60-62; Atalanta 62-64; Catania 64-65) — Carniglia II (Sampdoria 64-66) — Cerioni (Inter 46-47) — Cucchiaroni (Milan 1956-58; Sampdoria 58-63) — Conti (Juventus 56-58; Bari 58-61) — Curti (Genoa 47-48; Sampdoria 48-49; Padova 49-51; Triestina 51-55; Torino 55-56) — Desiderio (Catania 60-61) — Di Paola (Roma 46-49) — Esperon (Roma 46-47) — **Flamini (Lazio 46-47) — Florio (Torino 51-52) — Giarrizo (Palermo 53-54; Pro Patria 54-55) — Giorgi (Bologna 47-49) — Gonzales (Lucchese 51-52) — Grillo (Milan 57-60 — **Gualtieri (Lazio 46-47) — Locatelli (Torino 60-63; Genoa 63-65) — Lojacono* (LR Vicenza 56-57; Fiorentina 57-60; Roma 60-63; Fiorentina 63-64; Sampdoria 64-65) — Lorenzo (Sampdoria 48-52) — Manfredini (Roma 59-65) — Martegani (Padova 50-52; Palermo 52-55; Lazio 55-56) — Martino* (Juventus 49-51) — Maschio (Bologna 57-59; Atalanta 59-62; Inter 62-63; Fiorentina 63-65) — Massei (Inter 55-56; Triestina 58-59; Spal 59-64) — Montuori* (Fiorentina 55-61) — Morello (Padova 56-57) — Morrone (Lazio 60- then Fiorentina) — Pagani (Messina 63- Mantova 64-65) — **Panto (Roma 46-47 Pentrelli (Udinese 57-62; Fiorentina 62- — Pesaola* (Roma 47-50; Novara 50- Napoli 52-60) — Ricagni* (Juventus 53- Milan 54-56; Torino 56-58) — Rodrig (Salernitana 47-48). Rosa* (Sampd 54-56; Padova 56-61; Juventus 61-62) **Rosso (Alessandria 46-47) Sabbah (Sampdoria 49-54; Triestina 54-55; Atala 55-56) — Santos (Torino 49-51; Pro Pa 51-52) — Seghini (Bologna 56-57) — Sif (Salernitana 47-48) — Sivori* (Juven 57-65, then Napoli) — Tacchi (To 56-58; Alessandria 58-60; Napoli 60-63) Vairo (Juventus 55-56) — Valle (Ro 47-50) Verdeal (Genoa 46-49) — Verna (Palermo 56-60; Milan 60-61; LR Vice 61-63) — Vidal (Lazio 47-48). — 54.

AUSTRIA

**Koenig (Lazio 46-47) — Ocw (Sampdoria 56-61). — 2.

BELGIUM

Bares (Udinese 51-52). — 1.

BRAZIL

Almir (Genoa 62-63) — Altafini* (Mi 58-65, then Napoli to 72, then Juventus) Amalfi (Torino 51-52) — Amarildo (Mi 63-67 then Fiorentina) — Battaglia (Cata 62-64; Atalanta 64-65) — Canatta (Vene 62-63) — Cane (Napoli 62-69, then Bari 72, then Napoli) — Chinesinho (Mode 62-63; Catania 63-65, then Juventus) Clerici (Lecco 60-67; Bologna 67- Atalanta 68-69; Verona 69-71; Fiorenti 71-73; Napoli 73-75; Bologna 75-77; th Lazio) — Colella (Juventus 55-56) — Costa* (Roma 55-61; Atalanta 61- Juventus 63-66) — Da Silva (Sampdo 62-65) — De Souza (Spal 62-63; Sampdo

edgaces the history of foreign players in Italy.

German interest in Juventus' Roberto Bettega and Francesco Graziani of Torino.

There is no doubt that marksmen so successful in the cruel defensive world of *Calcio* might well run riot in the *Bundesliga*, which is one of the most high-scoring leagues of all.

But there is another threat to Italian soccer — in the past a sort of black hole in soccer's sky, sucking in players from everywhere with no-one and nothing ever emerging to tell the tale.

It is from the United States.

Recently I spoke to a New Jersey sports agent named Vittorio Mevo, an Italo-American who has helped form a company called 'Goal', with the aim of cornering the market in transfers from southern Europe to the U.S.

Mevo is convinced that freedom of contract will soon be the order of the day in Italy.

"In that case," he told me, "many Italian players will want to come over to America here. Even top players such as Antognoni, Bettega and Paolo Rossi. They could earn far more here than at home. I think all the best talent will come flooding in."

That would be a turn-up for the book!

Meanwhile, I decided this would be an appropriate time to review the foreign influx into Italy. It all started with the British, of course. There were four Britons in Genoa's team which won the first championship in 1898, and the names 'Genoa' and 'Milan' are of course English.

After the league began in the late 1920s Juventus soon settled in for a five-year reign which owed much to imported Argentines Raimundo Orsi and Luisito Monti. Bologna provided a brief rivalry, and even won the Mitropa Cup, but again in their case it was thanks to the Uruguayan centre-half Andreolo and fellow South Americans Sansone and Fedullo.

Open market

After the war Torino's run of five championships owed next to nothing to foreigners, but after the 1948 Olympics, when so many Swedes showed up so brilliantly, Italian soccer would never be the same again.

At that time there was still an open market in Hungarians, and Danes and Swedes were cheap. Being amateurs then there was no need to pay a transfer fee. South Americans were cheap too — but the majority proved disappointing. One who didn't was Juan Schiaffino. He cost Milan a reputed to be world record £72,000 when he joined from Penarol after the 1954 World Cup.

At the time it was a controversial signing. Schiaffino was then 29, and Milan general manager Toni Busini had earlier been interested in Alfredo di Stefano, but allowed Real Madrid to move in first.

As it was Schiaffino was one of the outstanding players in *Calcio* in the 1950s, along with Milan team-mate — now their coach — Nils Liedholm. Liedholm is still credited with being the first sweeper with a constructive mien — a Beckenbauer long before Beckenbauer's interpretation of the sweeper's role became the vogue.

Few Britons were successful — the outstanding example being John Charles, who starred alongside Omar Sivori at Juventus in the early 1960s. But the South African from Charlton, Eddie Firmani, had a distinguished career — even playing for Italy — and the strong, patient and uncomplaining Gerry Hitchens succeeded where the more explosive Denis Law, Joe Baker and Jimmy Greaves failed badly.

In the statistics here I've not tried to list every foreigner who has played in Italy since the war, but all those who have appeared in the first division, *Serie A*.

Brazilian Jose Altafini lasted longest, playing 459 games and scoring 216 goals. The Swede, Kurt Hamrin played 400 games, while the most successful scorer was Gunnar Nordahl, who reached 225. Only Sergio Clerici, at Lazio, remains from before the closure of the borders. He has, at the time of writing, scored 103 goals in 333 games.

Hitchens, incidentally, scored 59 in 203 to become the most successful of the Britons. Charles scored 97 goals in 160 games for Juventus and Roma.

63-64) — Dido (Spal 55-57) — Dino Sani (Milan 61-64) — Fantoni (Lazio 47-48) — Fernando (Palermo 61-63; Bari 63-64) — Germano (Milan 62; Genoa 62-63) — Jair da Costa (Inter 62-67, then Roma) — Julinho (Fiorentina 55-58) — Merighi (Modena 62-64) — Miranda (Juventus 62-63; Bari 63; Catania 63-64) — Murolo (LR Vicenza 55-56) — Nelsinho (Mantova 61-62) — Nene (Juventus 63-64; Cagliari 64-73) — Pinto (Palermo 62-63) — Siciliano (LR Vicenza 60-61; Venezia 61-62; Juventus 62-63) — Sorio (Spal 57-59) — Sormani* (Mantova 61-63; Roma 63-64; Sampdoria 64-65; Milan 65-70) — Tozzi (Lazio 56-60) — Vinicio (Napoli 55-60; Bologna 60-62; LR Vicenza 62-66; Inter 66-67). — 31.

BRITAIN

Adcock (Padova 48-49; Triestina 49-50) — Baker (Torino 61-62) — Charles (Juventus 57-62; Roma 63) — Firmani* (Sampdoria 55-58; Inter 58-61; Genoa 62-63) — Greaves (Milan 61) — Hitchens (Inter 61-63; Torino 63-68) — Jordan (Juventus 48-49) — Law (Torino 61-62) — Marchi (LR Vicenza 57-58; Torino 58-59) — Sloan (Milan 48-49). — 10.

CHILE

Toro (Sampdoria 62-63; Modena 63-64). — 1.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Arpas (Juventus 47-48) — Chawko (Palermo 48-49; Como 49-50) — Kaimi (Triestina 51-52) — Korostelev (Juventus 46-47; Atalanta 47-49) — Vycpalek (Juventus 46-48; Palermo 48-52). — 5.

DENMARK

Bennike (Spal 51-53; Genoa 53-54) — Bronee (Padova 50-51; Palermo 51-52; Roma 52-54; Juventus 54-55; Novara 55-56) — Christensen (Atalanta 61-64; Lazio 64-66) — Colbert (Lucchese 50-52) — Frandsen (Lucchese 51-52) — J. Hansen (Juventus 43-54; Lazio 54-55) — K. Hansen (Atalanta 49-50; Juventus 50-53; Sampdoria 53-54; Catania 54-55) — S. J. Hansen (Atalanta 51-52; Pro Patria 52-53) — Jensen I (Bologna 49-56) — Jensen II (Triestina 54-55) — Mortensen (Udinese 61-62) — F. Nielsen (Atalanta 61-64) — H. Nielsen (Bologna 61-67; Inter 67-68) — Oernveld (Spal 51-52) — Pilmark (Bologna 50-59) — Ploeger (Juventus 48-49; Novara 49-50; Torino 50-51; Udinese 51-54) — Praest (Juventus 49-56; Lazio 56-57) — Rasmussen (Atalanta 52-56) — Soersensen I (Atalanta 49-50; Udinese 50-52; Triestina 52-55) — L. Soerensen (Atalanta 51-53; Milan 53-55). — 21.

FRANCE

Bongiorni (Rorino 48-49) — Bonilaci (Inter 54-55; Bologna 55-57; Torino 57-59; LR Vicenza 60-61) — Combin (Juventus 64-66; Torino 66-69; Milan 69-70) — Forte (Palermo 56-57) — Leduc (Venezia 49-50) — Wisnievsky (Sampdoria 63-64). — 6.

GREECE

Ragone (Bari 46-47). — 1.

HOLLAND

Kruiver (LR Vicenza 61-62) — Lakenburg (Pro Patria 50-51) — Roosemburg (Fiorentina 50-53) — Wilkes (Inter 49-52; Torino 52-53). — 4.

HUNGARY

Bogdan (Bari 47-48) — Garay (Inter 47-48; Pro Patria 48-49) — Hoffling (Lazio 48-51; Pro Patria 51-56; LR Vicenza 55-56) — Hrotko (Bari 48-49) — Kaszas (Venezia 61-62) — Kincses (Atalanta 46-47; Juventus 47-48; Bari 48-49; Lucchese 49-52) — Mike (Bologna 47-50; Lucchese 50-51; Napoli 51-52; Bologna 52-54; Genoa 54-55) — Nagy (Fiorentina 49-51) — S. Nyers (Inter 48-54; Roma 54-56) — F. Nyers (Lazio 48-51) — Olajkar (Atalanta 46-47) — Pako (Livorno 48-49) — Sarosi (Bologna 46-49; Bari 49-50) — Schubert (Torino 48-49) — Sipos (Bologna 46-47) — Szoken (Udinese 52-55; Triestina 55-59) — Troth (Lucchese 47-50) — Turbeky (Pro Patria 49-52) — Vinyei (Pro Patria 48-51; Napoli 51-55; Spal 55-57) — Veros (Bari 47-50). — 20.

ICELAND

Gudmundsson (Milan 48-49).

NORWAY

Anderssen (Padova 51-52) — Bredesen (Lazio 52-55; Milan 55-57; Bari 58-59) — Gundersen (Verona 57-58) — Larsen (Lazio 51-53; Genoa 53-56). — 4.

PARAGUAY

Arce (Lazio 49-51; Napoli 51-52; Sampdoria 52-53; Novara 53-56; Torino 56-59; Palermo 59-60) — Benegas (Triestina 50-52) — Ortega (Genoa 46-47) — Parodi (Genoa 56-57). — 4.

PERU

Benitez (Milan 62-65 — loan to Messina 63-64) — Gallardo (Cagliari 64-66) — Natteri (Triestina 56-57; Alessandria 57-58) — Seminario (Fiorentina 62-64). — 4.

PORTUGAL

Humberto (Inter 61-62; LR Vicenza 62-64). — 1.

RUMANIA

Fabian (Torino 46-48; Lucchese 48-49; Bari 49-50) — Fuzer (Genoa 47-48) — Radu (Roma 48-49). — 3.

●*Continued next month*

WORLD CUP C

BRAZIL

A BRAZILIAN tour of Europe is always a big event. Unlike other South American nations it's not made out of economic necessity, but in a pure desire to fashion the best team for the World Cup.

There was plenty of controversy about the decision to make the trip so near the finals. A couple of bad results and manager Claudio Coutinho would have been looking for a new job.

But at the time of writing it doesn't look bad. The 1-0 opening game defeat by France can hardly be counted too surprising, and the 1-0 win in Hamburg over West Germany was an excellent result, even if the game wasn't so good.

Brazil had gone 37 games without defeat (including 25 internationals since a 3-1 defeat by Peru in autumn 1975), and the teams in Paris were:

France: Bertrand-Demanes — Battiston (Bracci), Rio, Lopez, Bossis — Guillou, Michel (Petit), Platini — Baronchelli, Berdoll, Amisse (Six).
Brazil: Leao — Toninho, Amaral, Oscar, Edinho — Toninho Cerezo, Rivelino, Dirceu — Tarcisio (Gil), Reinaldo (Nunes), Zico.

The only goal came five minutes from the end, from Platini, while it was a late goal — this time from Nunes after a brilliant one-two by Zico and Ze Maria — which beat the German world champions.

Brazil started with Ze Maria at right back for Toninho, and played their best when Zico took over the organisation after a thigh muscle forced Rivelino off early in the second half. This time Gil started the game at outside, with Batista subbing for Rivelino, Nunes again for Reinaldo.

West Germany: Maier — Vogts, Russmann, Kaltz, Dietz — Bonhof, Flohe, Beer — Abramczyk, Fischer, Rummenigge. Substitutes were Hans Müller for Abramczyk, Fischer for Dietz, and Worm for Beer.

Brazil had enjoyed an excellent tour send-off, beating a Rio XI 7-0 (Zico 5), then a Goias State XI 3-1 (Reinaldo, Zico penalty, Tarcisio).

Coutinho is keeping his men under rigid discipline, including a list of 19 'don'ts', including no long hair, no beards, no alcohol and no smoking. They are very much in dedicated earnest, though Reinaldo, top scorer in the national championship, caused a stir when he spoke out publicly against the vast sums being spent in Brazil on new stadia at the expense of housing.

A player with a social conscience, indeed.

Strangely there were no men from new champions Sao Paulo in the team, while two Fluminense men — Rivelino and Edinho — were engaged in talks over new contracts. Rivelino's, for two years, seems to quash talk of a move to New York Cosmos.

Finally there remains a doubt about Luiz Pereira. Will Coutinho call him in? It all depends on the European tour. But the Atletico Madrid sweeper says he will definitely be in Argentina — "even if it's only as a spectator."

Platini scores for France against Br

FRANCE

FRANCE'S 1-0 win over Brazil had everyone in ecstasy, above all admirers of M Platini, who got the vital goal (see Brazil section for teams).

All the more remarkable was the fact that manager Michel Hidalgo is having to stru along without injured seniors Tresor, Bathenay, Rouyer and Rocheteau.

Added to that injury list now is goalkeeper Andre Rey who broke a wrist in trai trying to save a shot from Metz and France team-mate Battiston!

Hidalgo has been lucky in that reserves such as Bruno Baronchelli and Marc Berdo back after a terrible time with Saarbrücken in Germany — have hit form at the right t The problem is that when he gets his original first-team together again, all the momen may be destroyed.

While Berdoll celebrated his comeback against Portugal and Brazil with five goal two successive league games, there is concern over the poor form of Lens left-wir Didier Six. It seems his thoughts are being distracted by lucrative offers from Holland West Germany.

The French squad for the Brazil game was: Goal — Bertrand-Demanes, Dro Defence — Bossis, Bracci, Janvion, Lopez, Rio. Midfield — Guillou, Michel, Petit, Pla Forwards — Amisse, Baronchelli, Berdoll, Lacombe, Six.

FIRST THE good news . . . Peru beat Newells Old Boys of Argentina 2-1 with two Teofilo Cubi goals (one a penalty) and held Bulgaria 1-1. Now the bad news — and plenty of it.

They lost home and away to Argentina, 2-1 and 3-1 (see Argentina section for teams), Hugo Sotil needs an operation which will probably keep him out of the finals, and no terms have yet been agreed to use Juan Jose Munante.

Sotil's leg muscle trouble had been upsetting him for some time, but medical officials were convinced it was all in his mind and advised him to visit the psychologist. That didn't do the trick, but an X-ray did. . . .

As for Munante, his Mexican club are demanding insurance worth £150,000, and the Peruvians were still haggling at the time of writing. They can't afford to do without him if their warm-up form is anything to go by.

Indeed, matters reached such a crisis point they called off a European tour which included matches against club teams such as Saint-Etienne, Saarbrücken and Napoli.

The team against Bulgaria was:
Peru: Quiroga — Soria (Navarro), Reyna, Chumpitaz, Diaz — Quesada, (Bisselli), Gorriti, Rojas (Cueto) — Mosquera, Ramirez, Oblitas.

Badly missing the injured Cubillas, the Peruvians went one down when Bulgaria scored in the 25th minute through Manolov, pulling back only thanks to a 62nd-minute effort from veteran forward Oswaldo

PERU

Ramirez — a survivor of the 1970 team.
The team left the pitch to jeers and b and shouts for manager Marcos Calderon step down.

SCOTLAND

ALLY MACLEOD'S cheery progress ha been interrupted by the one piece of ba news everyone had half-expected.

Celtic full-back Danny McGrain, one o Europe's most reliable defenders, will not after all, be appearing in Argentina — ye another 'name' to miss the finals.

McGrain has admitted he has no hope o recovering from a leg injury in time to regain peak fitness and has withdrawn from the Scotland 40.

MacLeod has named Hibernian 26-year-old John Brownlie, to take his place. Brownlie's last international was against Rumania at Hampden in December 1975 — a 1-1 draw in the European championship.

COUNTDOWN

LENNART LARSEN is the latest young Swede to join the ever-lengthening list of players seeking fame and fortune in the professional world.

He's with Schalke now, in West Germany, along with another World Cup 'foreigner', Wim Suurbier of Holland.

Larsen has settled in quickly with Schalke, and his name was among the first manager Georg Eriesson must have turned to when he named his squad for the friendly with East Germany:

Goal — Helstroem (Kaiserslautern), Hagberg (Cesters). **Defence** — Roy Andersson, Friendsson (Malmoe), Borg (Eintracht Braunschweig), Johansson (Hammarby), Nordqvist (IFK Goteborg), Aaman (Cercoro). **Midfield** — Larsson (Schalke), Linderoth (Marseille), Norden (IFK), Tapper (Malmoe). **Attack** — Nilsson (IFK), Sjoeberg (Malmoe), Wendt (Kaiserslautern), Asund (AIK Stockholm).

WEST GERMANY

JUPP DERWALL, Helmut Schoen's assistant and ordained successor, said recently that 18 out of the 22 places in the Argentina squad had been decided.

But that was before the 1-0 Hamburg defeat by Brazil, and a wretched performance which prompted demands for the recall — at any price — of 32-year-old Franz Beckenbauer from New York Cosmos.

Schoen would welcome Beckenbauer back, but the DFB has already said No, so he must soldier on with Manfred Kaltz as sweeper. At least Kaltz is back to something approaching his best form, earning praise from new Hamburg boss Günter Netzer. Though converted from right back to sweeper by Schoen at senior level, Kaltz had, in fact, played in the centre of defence in his pre-professional youth days.

The midfield problems remain. Rainer Bonhof and Heinz Flohe are certainties, but who completes the trio? It won't be Jürgen Grabowski. He decided, after deep thought, not to change his decision, made in 1974, to quit national team soccer.

At least in attack Schoen has a choice of men, particularly since Dieter Müller has been able to postpone his knee operation and continues in scoring form. He hit two goals in Köln's 5-2 win over MSV Duisburg, then two more away to 1860 München.

Köln and Borussia are, as I write, level at the top of the table, but Borussia run the risk of missing out on everything. Bonhof maintained his dominance of Ray Clemence with another free kick goal in the Champions' Cup semi-final, but the Borussia empire is slowly falling apart.

It has now been confirmed that skipper Berti Vogts retires next year to take up a coaching post with the DFB.

ITALY

GIACINTO FACCHETTI'S chances of making the World Cup and becoming the first Italian to top 100 caps have taken a severe battering.

Italy's senior international fractured two ribs in Internazionale's 2-2 league draw with Juventus and was immediately ordered to rest for three weeks. That meant he missed the club's friendly with Brazil, and the long-term effect could be to put an end to his national team career.

Facchetti's season – his last – has been dogged by ill fortune. Indeed, it seems the World Cup has a special jinx on him. In 1966 he was in the team beaten by North Korea, and in 1970 captain of a defence-oriented side taken to the cleaners by Brazil. In 1974 he suffered a similar injury shortly before the finals, which meant he wasn't at his best in West Germany.

Italy's problem is that this side was at its best probably 18 months ago, and with Roberto Bettega clearly tired and young 19-goal Paolo Rossi already having played not far short of 60 games at league and representative level this season, they're not promising to be too sharp.

Lack of warm-up practice could hinder them too, while Giancarlo Antognoni's thoughts and efforts are all directed to trying to save Fiorentina from relegation.

There is some good news, however, from Juventus, four points clear at the top. Dino Zoff is back in form – saving penalties from Geels and Van Gord in the Champions' Cup quarter final with Ajax – and says he feels good enough to go on 'til he's 40.

At the other end of the age scale, young midfielder Antonio Cabrini was so impressive as substitute against Bruges in the semi-finals that he could well have played himself into the final 22.

The delegation to Argentina will have, as general factotum, a man well known in Italo-English soccer circles – Gigi Peronace.

MEXICO

MORE SUCCESS for Jose Antonio Roca's men — first a 2-0 win over San Diego in California with goals from Hugo Sanchez and Vazquez Ayala, then a 3-0 win over Bulgaria.

But it's not all been plain sailing. Midfield star Leonardo Cuellar was injured and only just made the visit to the U.S., while top young forward Victor Rangel is emerging from a poor spell in which he went eight league games without scoring for his club, Guadalajara.

Rumours abound, too, that several European clubs have their eyes on some of Mexico's best players, despite the fact that no Mexicans have ever done well back across the Atlantic.

Cuellar and Hugo Sanchez are two obvious targets. But they will be in Europe soon enough anyway — on Mexico's pre-World Cup tour which kicks off with a friendly against Spain in Granada on April 26.

SPAIN

SPAIN'S 3-0 win over Norway didn't provide the 'Kubala Boys' with much of a test. Still, with the Spanish federation having raked in £300,000 so far in sponsorship cash, at least the players were happy enough!

The teams, before a 25,000 crowd in Gijon, were:

Spain: Miguel Angel (Urruticoechea) — San Jose, Pirri, Benito (Gordillo), Verdugo — Cardenosa, Villar (Lanchas) — Dani, Quini, Santillana, Marianon.

Norway: Jakobsen — Karsen, Grondahlen, Aas, Pedersen — Andersen, Johansen, Olhesen (Hoyland) — Tinberg, Iversen (E. Aas), Larsen.

TUNISIA

TUNISIA'S World Cup position is safe, but only just, after their controversial walkout during the third place match in the African championships in Ghana.

The Tunisian players, led by goalkeeper and captain Sadok Sassi Attouga, stalked from the pitch three minutes from half-time in the game against Nigeria, protesting that the Nigerian equaliser had followed an offence of handball.

The referee didn't agree, and despite a frantic plea from manager Majid Chetali, the Tunisian players walked out. At one time it seemed the African confederation were considering asking FIFA to ban Tunisia from the World Cup Finals, particularly after they suspended all Tunisian teams from international competition for two years, and Attouga for three years.

However, after 10 days' suspense, AFC president Vidnikatchem Tessema gave all Tunisia relief by announcing that "it would be unfair to ask FIFA to designate another African team at this late stage."

POLAND

JACEK GMOCH keeps steadily on towards the finals, with his team looking more and more likely to pose anyone problems.

Gmoch says his aim is to "improve on last time," when Poland finished third, and with Jerzy Gorgon restored to favour — he says his wild days are over — and Andrzej Szarmach overcoming a recent poor patch, Poland looked more like themselves in a 3-1 win in Luxembourg.

Szarmach, top scorer in the league with 13 goals, hit two in the seventh and 89th minutes, while the other fell, after only two minutes, to recalled hero Wlodzimierz Lubanski.

Luxembourg: Moes — Fandel, Mond, Zangerle, Philipp — Dresch, Moracelli, Di Domenico Marque, Michaux, Swally.

Poland: Tomaszewski — Maculewicz, Szymanowski, Zmuda, Justek — Kasperczak, Deyna, Boniek — Lato, Lubanski, Szarmach.

Still in Gmoch's plans is another 1974 man, Henryk Kasperczak. He leaves Poland after the finals, not for Xamax Neuchatel as first seemed certain, but Metz in France. His was one of the first names written in when Gmoch named his squad for the friendlies against Greece (won 5-2) and the Republic of Ireland:

Goal Tomaszewski (LKS Lodz). Kostrzewa (Zaglebie). **Defence** — Wawrowski (Pogon), A. Szymanowski, Maculewicz (Wisla Krakow), Zmuda (Slask), Justek, Szewczyk (Lech Poznan), Wojtowicz (Szombierki), Wojcicki (Odra Opole). **Midfield** — Nawalka (Wisla), Kasperczak (Stal Mielec), Deyna (Legia Warsaw), Boniek (Widzew Lodz), Kopowicz (Arka Gdynia), Kwasniewski (Odra). **Attack** — Szarmach, Lato (Stal), Kusto (Legia), Mazur (Zaglebie), Ozil (Gornik), Lubanski (Lokeren, Belgium).

News from Spain by Keir Radnedge

Vital win keeps Real clear of Barcelona

ALL THE old vicious hatred of Catalonia for Castille, Barcelona for Madrid, was raised by the so-vital clash between championship contende Madrid and Barcelona.

The game, played in midweek, carried immense importance. If Barcelona could win it, in Madrid's back yard, they would be level on point top after being, at one stage, seven adrift.

If Madrid won, they would be back four points ahead of Johan Cruyff's men and poised to move smoothly on to the league title for the 18th ti

Even before the teams ran out before the 125,000 capacity crowd the Barcelona camp was upset. Because of suspensions for accumulation of yellow cards, both Cruyff and Johan Neeskens missed the game. This, to the Barcelona fans, pointed directly to a typical centrist plot hatched out between Real, FEF officials and referees!

Barcelona also approached the game a week after stupid defensive mistakes had cost a 3-0 defeat in the UEFA Cup semi-final first leg against PSV Eindhoven, and morale was already at a low ebb. Madrid dominated from start to finish, and won clearly and decisively 4-0 — with Danish forward Henning Jensen hitting the first two goals.

Surgery

And it was Jensen who was the subject of Madrileno anger later. Two minutes from time a crude tackle by Migueli laid him out, and not only was he carried off, but needed light surgery for a six-inch gash in his leg.

All in all, a major turnaround. A few days before the game it had seemed that, while Cruyff continued to deny reports of an imminent signing for New York Cosmos and retraction of his refusal to play in the World Cup, he was at least in with a great chance of ending his career in Spain with the cup and league double.

Madrid had seemed to be back in the old groove when they took revenge over neighbours Rayo Vallecano. Beaten surprisingly 3-2 by Rayo earlier in the season, Madrid crushed them 5-2 in the Estadio Bernabeu, their best performance for a long time. Meanwhile Barcelona, without the injured Cruyff and Neeskens, were held 0-0 at Las Palmas.

The following Sunday, however, while Barcelona were winning at home, so Madrid lost 2-0 away to Valencia, and had their best player — midfielder Carlos Guerini — sent off 10 minutes from the end.

Valencia's hero was their controversial Argentine star Oscar Valdez. He scored the first goal after 10 minutes, and it was after he had been brought down by Gregorio Benito in the 54th minute that Mario Kempes converted the penalty for Valencia's second and final goal.

Charts

That goal put Kempes, Argentina's likely World Cup centre-forward, level with Madrid's Santillana at the top of the first division scoring charts, with 19 apiece and meant Madrid were now just one point clear of Barcelona.

It didn't stay that way. Just for a week in fact, since while Barcelona were losing 2-1 away to mid-table Sevilla (goals from Montero and Scotta penalty, and Asensi for Barcelona), Madrid took some belated vengeance for their Cup defeat against Real Sociedad de San Sebastian, by hammering them 5-0 in Chamartin. Santillana and Henning Jensen each scored twice and the lead was now three points.

Not for long. One more week and Madrid were losing 4-2 to Betis, while Barcelona were held 1-1 in the local derby by Espanol.

It was now Madrid 37 points, Barcelona 35. Then came Gijon and Valencia on 32 with Bilbao on 31. Gijon are doing well back in the first division, and recognition for them came with the appointment of their veteran centre-forward Quini, as captain of Spain in the recent friendly against Norway (see World Cup Countdown). It was his first appearance for his country for almost two years.

Valencia have picked up well after the early-season traumas, while Bilbao, beaten 1-0 by Hercules, appear to be suffering from a little internal unrest. Rumours have been flying of disagreements between the players and coach Koldo Aguirre, but Bilbao remain well on course to find a place in next season's UEFA Cup, having formally admitted that the league title is beyond them.

Chances

Their chances of a UEFA Cup place depend, to some extent, on Barcelona. If Barcelona win the cup and finish second, then that creates one extra UEFA Cup place. And Barcelona are now favourites to win the Cup for the 18th time in their history and the first time since 1971.

Henning Jensen on the Real Madrid treatment table.

The semi-finals paired them with San Sebastian, earlier conquerors of Real Madrid, while the other tie was the unfashionable one between Las Palmas and Gijon.

Usually these later stages of the cup are played after the league programme has been completed, but World Cup qualification had meant telescoping the season. In 1974, for instance, the cup final between Barcelona and Real Madrid was played on the eve of the World Cup Final.

This year there has been a significant change of rules to allow foreigners to play in the cup for the first time. That, the fact that Cruyff and Neeskens can play in the final, makes Barcelona clear favourites.

Having held Real Sociedad 0-0 in San Sebastian, it looked straightforward for CFB, but there were 95,000 fans in Nou Camp just to urge them on. Minus the injured midfield fetcher-and-carrier, Jose Sanchez, Barcelona suffered a jolt when Real Sociedad took the lead inside nine minutes. A long cross was missed by Migueli, his goalkeeper Artola and centre-forward Satrustegui, and Iriarte had an easy task of running the loose ball into the net.

Pressure

But it wasn't going to be Real Sociedad's night. After 32 minutes referee Sanchez Arminio harshly sent off midfielder Diego, yet it wasn't until the hour that Barcelona equalised.

The pressure which saw them earn 16 corners to San Sebastian's one, finally paid off when Migueli headed in Rexach's kick. Now Barcelona were coming in with the tide, and with 15 minutes to go Neeskens set up Cruyff for a chance. The Dutchman was cut down by Gajate, and Rexach hit the penalty past goalkeeper Cendoya, who had come on at half-time for the injured Arconada.

Excited

In the other semi-final, Las Palmas won easily enough 3-0 at home against Gijon, and were soon further ahead when Rivero headed in a corner. Gijon gave their excited fans some hope when they pulled back to lead 3-1 on the night, but a late goal from Miguel Angel Brindisi, Argentina's 1974 schemer, finally killed them off.

Both coaches were former Real Madrid men. Indeed Gijon's Vicente Miera had been a player at Madrid under Las Palmas boss Miguel Munoz. Whatever may be said about the internal situation at Madrid — one director resigned recently in protest at too many old-fashioned ideas — they have produced a stream of much-in-demand coaches.

Antonio Ruiz may well go to Argentina with the Spanish squad, while he and Juan Santistehan — the two senior aides at Madrid to Luis Molowny — were both approached by second division Granada to succeed the Brazilian, Vava. Having been refused, Granada are now trying to tempt Amancio, who has yet to graduate from the Madrid youth coaching staff.

Elsewhere the talk is also of new coaches.

Molowny insists he won't stay as first-team boss, at Madrid, though many feel he has the right iron-handed approach. He recently sent off Spain star Juanito during a training match! Jose Santamaria, former Madrid stopper recently sacked by Espanol, is one suggestion; Nils Liedholm, now at Milan, is another, though Barcelona are also said to be interested in the tall Swede.

Also with their eyes on Italy are Atletico Madrid, toying with the idea of an approach to Torino coach Gigi Radice.

As for Barcelona, nothing can be decided until the presidential elections are out of the way. One candidate wants to bring in Helenio Herrera and Luis Suarez: another plans to restore Hennes Weisweiler.

One thing is certain. Rinus Michels is comfortably resigned to the fact that this is his last season. But for a tougher finale he could not wish.

As he said, when asked about the championship race: "Every game from now on in is going to be like the cup final."

Good news for Jorge d'Alessandro, the Salamanca goalkeeper who feared a kidney operation had prematurely ended a fine career. The Argentinian has been given the all-clear to resume training.

What a finish ... in Brazil

SAO PAULO FC won the Brazilian national championship in which 62 participants played no less than 485 games during a hectic three-months period . . . but in the end the title was decided by post-match penalty kicks. Clubs played in groups in three stages before four semi-finalists remained. In the final Sao Paulo and Atletico Mineiro of Belo Horizonte drew 0-0 after 30 minutes extra-time.

Then Sao Paulo had their first two penalty shots stopped by Joao Leite before netting the next three. Mineiro, on the other hand, had the first stopped by Valdir Peres, went ahead by netting the next two, but failed with the last two. It was a poor end to an exhausting match and an even more exhausting championship.

Leading scorers

Both teams missed their leading scorers in the final. Mineiro's Reinaldo, the championship top scorer with 28, was serving a four-match suspension while Sao Paulo's Serginho, second in the scorers table with two less, was suspended for 14 months for attacking a referee which meant that national coach Coutinho could not consider him for the national team.

In the semi-finals Sao Paulo and Mineiro had beaten Operario and Londrina respectively — both small clubs which had been the revelation of the tournament.

Londrina, not even considered among the top teams in the southern state of Parana, beat several of Brazil's leading clubs - Rio champions Vasco da Gama by 2-0 in the last group match in Ri in front of 40,000 hostile fans — on the way to winning their quarte final group. Earlier they had also defeated Sao Paulo champion Corinthians, Rio's Flamengo and Santos.

With virtually the same team which only won promotion to its stat first division last year, Londrina have been the sensation withou any stars in their line-up. They are coached by a 60-year-ol Argentine who has lived and played in Brazil since 1936 — Armando Renganeschi — after earlier playing back for Independiente i Buenos Aires. He puts it all down to hard training, top fitness and the enthusiasm of a young team.

At press time the new Brazilian national championship had already started — after barely a month's break — with 74 teams taking part this time, but not the players in Brazil's World Cup squad.

South American news from ERIC WEIL

IN CHILE, newly promoted Cobreloa won their first three games to top the table, while champions Union Española had not yet found their feet with only two points. The leaders have Argentine Luis Ceballos, transferred from Everton and among Chile's leading forwards, playing for them. Coach Luis Santibañez, who took Union Española to the first division title last year, coaches O'Higgins, one of the smaller teams this season. O'Higgins represents a mining zone and one of Santibañez's first decisions was that players cut their hair short like the miners and put on mining helmets to take the field.

● *IN PERU, the regional championship has started with the 16 First Division clubs divided into north and south zones. World Cup players not being allowed to play for their teams . . . and low gates. Not unexpectedly last year's vice-champions Sporting Cristal, with 10 men in the national team, and champions Alianza Lima (with eight) are near the bottom of their zones after five games.*

● *URUGUAY started their season in a happier mood following a First Division selection's 0-0 draw with Argentina (away). Critics said that if Uruguay had played like this in their World Cup eliminating games last year, they would now be in the finals. The League XI had included many of Uruguay's former internationals, such as Montero Castillo, who had been overlooked last year. After two matches big clubs Nacional and Peñarol top the First Division with full points.*

● *IN BOLIVIA, the 1977 season had still not finished as four clubs were battling for the title in the final round – The Strongest (La Paz), Wilstermann (Cochabamba), Oriente Petrolero (Santa Cruz) and Bolivar (La Paz). The championship had been interrupted during the season when a split, caused by Bolivia's poor World Cup showing, resulted in the formation of a new Major League.*

NO STARS

THE 48th professional First Division championship started at the beginning of March in Argentin only six weeks after the previous season ended with the national championship and with most cl wondering how much money they were going to lose this time. The main cause for despondency w the absence of World Cup squad players who will not be able to play for their clubs until after t world tournament, the lack of continuity as the championship will be suspended from May 21 July 2 (while the World Cup is on) and the probable loss of interest by fans after the World Cu unless Argentina does very well, as has virtually happened in every World Cup hosting country.

The absence of World Cup players from the tournament looks like lowering the standard still further and although it might create more interest by giving weaker clubs a chance for the moment, this is unlikely to please the majority of fans who follow the traditionally strong clubs.

One of the most popular, Boca Juniors, have started the season off poorly, again frequently fielding weak teams while they had their eyes on two other trophies — the Inter-Continental Cup against Europe's losing finalists Borussia Moechengladbach of West Germany of West Germany and the American Cup against the Central American champions, America of Mexico. Bóca Juniors, who went into both these trophies as last year's Libertadores Cup winners, miss only World Cup player Tarantini who will, in any case, not be returning to the club as his contract ended and he was left as a free agent after club and player failed to come to terms.

Defending

River Plate, the defending first division champions, on the other hand, miss World Cup players Fillol (goal), Passarella (back), Luque and Ortiz (forwards) and they have bought three new defenders — Pavoni and Rodriguez (from Newell's Old Boys) and Azzolini (Atlanta), but while making an erratic start to the season, their fans are overjoyed at the form of Alonso wh returned during last season after an unhapp stay in France.

The transfer market has been quiet mostl due to a lack of cash as players on the Worl Cup list (which includes not only the 22 in th squad) cannot be transferred abroad an local clubs did not want them either whil they were not available. Top price was th surprisingly high 80 million peso recor (£62,000), by local standards, for Fortunato not a top flight forward, paid by Estudiante de La Plata to Quilmes.

Close game

Early season games have been close with a lot of draws and wins by one goal margins. The surprise was River Plate's 5-2 defeat by Colon in Santa Fe. They had not lost so heavily for over four years . . . and then it was against traditional rivals Boca Juniors 191 games ago. Racing Club, after last year's poor season, were leading by a point after four games while Avellaneda neighbours Independiente were near the bottom of the table only a few weeks after winning the national title with good soccer. But they were now without World Cup players Pagnanini (back), Galvin and Larrosa (halves) and dangerous forward Bertoni and a number of other much changed teams had not settled down early in the season.

Hectic Magyars

by Leslie Vernon

THE Hungarian League treadmill keeps on turning, and within two months, 13 rounds have been played-off. This strenuous programme has separated the men from the boys, and before the final assault for the summit, only three more games are left to endure.

It has been so arranged that in these rounds, three double-headers will be staged in the Nepstadium, featuring the four most popular teams, Ujpest Dozsa, Honved, Vasas and Ferencvaros. Unfortunately, only the first two mentioned are still in the race with 46 points each — just two ahead of MTK-VM, who aim to capitalize on the possible, nay probable, slips of the others. To complicate the situation still further, for the first time goal-difference cannot decide the fate of the championship or relegation.

If two or more (!) clubs finish level on points, they will have to meet again in play-off games for the gold medals and a place in next season's European Cup. Dozsa are still regarded as the hot favourites, although they collected only 20 points in their 13 games — two fewer than Honved. (Remember an extra round was played-off last winter, making the two halves of the season assimetrical!).

But the lilac-and-whites have by far the best forward-line with Fazekas back at his best and Torocsik often in devastating form. Fekete — in-and-out of the side — has also "come good" lately, and scored a hat-trick against Bekescsaba. Honved, traditionally ill-equipped in the 'derby' games, can thank a water-tight defence for their success.

They conceded only 17 goals in 31 games, while the Dozsa rearguard let in 41 — in fact, their 87-41 for and against figures bring back memories of happier days, when 'open football' was more fashionable. MTK (19 points) lost just one game, drew with Vasas, and are certain of a UEFA Cup place — at least! Vasas on 41 points have several problems, and are especially hard hit by the loss of form of forwards Kovacs and Varadi.

The latter is no longer certain of a place in the national team, and confesses to being puzzled by his own slump of scoring potential. Ferencvaros are 'just another team', losing home-and-away regularly — even the faithful supporters deserted them. Their latest set-back at home v. Dunaujvaros was witnessed by a 6,000 crowd which meant the disappearance of twice as many 'regulars'.

Incidentally, Dunaujvaros are managed by ex-Fradi ace Dezso Novak, who was in the running for the top job at his old club, when Jeno Dalnoki was appointed a few years ago. This latest humiliation must have been specially sweet for Novak, although one must not forget that under Dalnoki, Fradi won the League and reached the European Cup Winners' Cup Final.

But in football, you can't live on past glories — a sentiment recently expressed quite forcefully by Ferencvaros chairman, Janos Harot. "In these troubled times, we need our true supporters to help the club. Demonstrations 'personalized' chanting, doesn't help. On the other hand, we must recognize our shortcomings and our mistakes.

If we do not correct them, we cannot ask to be forgiven, because to persist with wrong methods is more than an error — it is a crime! But look at Bayern Munich — they have the resources, the players, and they are still having a mediocre campaign. We all must pull together to rescue the team — it is never too late".

It all sounds a bit confusing (what has it all got to do with poor old Bayern Munich?), and my interpretation of this statement is, that unless they do a lot better in their prestige derby games — they will sack the manager. (No chairman ever sacks himself, and as far as the players are concerned, Ferencvaros are stuck with several non-triers at present).

On a happier note, I would like to record that Hungary have yet another world-class forward — Andras Torocsik. He was born on May 1, 1955 in Budapest, started his football career with a small club, BVSC, and joined Dozsa at the age of 19. He made his debut for the national team in Vienna two years later, and now has nine caps.

He is the cool, clever type of player, who relies on instinct, ball-control and vision, rather than speed, courage and physical attributes. Torocsik says: "Even when I was a youngster, I always tried to use my brain. Football is a game to be played with your head not with your feet — metaphorically speaking. Scoring goals is an instinctive talent, it cannot be taught. Ask Gerd Muller or Jimmy Greaves — they couldn't give you a ready-made prescription either.

I am getting used to the unceremonious treatment that opposing defenders inevitably dish out. At the beginning, I was inclined to 'kick back', but our coach, Pal Varhidi, convinced me that the most effective way of "retaliation" was goal scoring". 'Toro' as he is nicknamed, looks upon Florian Albert as his ideal footballer, eats fried chicken three times a week, and listens to Rod Stewart records in his spare time.

His arrogant skills are the hall-mark of a truly great player who doesn't easily conform to a tactical pattern or to any preconceived plan. But he is not yet the finished product — his application could be less inconsistent, he should be able to 'mix-it' if necessary and his temperament is not ideally suited to deal with explosive situations. The acid test will come at Wembley in May, and inevitably in the World Cup.

If the 23-year-old cheeky-faced, stockily built Torocsik comes through these examinations with his reputation enhanced, then he can look forward to a glittering career.

SHOP WINDOW

Advertisements from bona fide collectors and non-profit making organisations printed FREE of charge.

12-YEAR-OLD Aidan Byrne from Ireland would like to correspond with any soccer fan from anywhere in the world, and to exchange information, magazines, pictures, etc. Aidan Byrne, Tinode, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

SHOOT anything before October 15, 1977. WORLD SOCCER, anything before January, 1975. Must be in good condition. Good prices offered. William Carter Jnr, 35 John Street, Cranford, New Jersey, 07016, USA.

WANTED . . . The following programmes in good condition: England v. France '62; France v. England '63; Spain v. England '68; Cyprus v. England '75; and the 1961 ECNC Final, Rangers v. Fiorentina. 11 Theobalds Court, 40 Queens Drive, London, N4 2XG.

THE ENGLISH TABLE SOCCER ASSOCIATION organise regular competitions for all Subbuteo players. For your FREE copy of the ETSA handbook and newsletter please send a large s.a.e. to: G. Luke, 1 Goonbell, St Agnes, Cornwall, TR5 0PH.

FINNISH 32-year-old sport journalist wants to correspond with athletics, soccer and other sport interested people from all over the world. Esko Saarinen, Neulastie 4 as. 22, 45200 Kouvola 20, Finland.

I AM A 21-YEAR-OLD Arsenal fan (male) who would like to correspond with soccer fans worldwide. Particularly fans in the following countries and of following teams: Holland, USA, Canada, Spain, USSR, West Germany, Hungary Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Sweden, Australia, Czechoslovakia; Vancouver Whitecaps, New York Cosmos, Minnesota Kicks, Los Angeles Aztecs, Tampa Bay Rowdies, Washington Diplomats, Malmo, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Ajax, PSV Eindhoven, Dynamo Kiev, Moscow Dynamo, Palmeiras, Flamengo, Fluminense, Corinthians, Alianza Lima, Sporting Cristal, Boca Juniors, Penarol, Colo-Colo. Interested in all sports, music, politics and travel. Speak English only, unfortunately. Steven L. Powell, 73 Brunswick Crescent, New Southgate, London, N11 1EE, United Kingdom.

WANTED: Glasgow Rangers Football programmes, home and away. Will pay reasonable prices. Tommy Elliott, 40 Royal Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5AH.

INTERNATIONAL CAPS, especially Scottish, Irish and foreign, urgently required. Also other soccer mementoes such as presentation pennants, gold medals, jerseys, 1954 World Cup, British international 'away' and ex-League programmes. Can you help? Write to: Bryan Horsnell, 275 Overdown Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 6NX. Tel. (0734) 24448.

JOHN RYAN 19, will be emigrating to USA, he would like to join a college soccer team, details of playing and educational experience, team's and honours available on request. Write to: John Ryan, 104 Warham St, Camberwell, London, SE5, England.

WANTED: "Shoot" dated March 2, 1974 to July 12, 1975. Must be in good condition, will pay 20p each, including postage. Tak-Keung Chan, 6 Block 11, G/F, Lower Wong Tai Sin Estate, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

THOUSANDS OF PROGRAMMES for sale or exchange. QPR programmes 1947-48 to date required. SAE (essential) for lists to: Bill Tilbury, 150 Branksome Hill Road, College Town, Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey.

Boca chase cups

BOCA Juniors, as the 1977 Libertadores Cup holders, are going out for two more trophies — the Europe-South America Cup against Europe's representative (in this case Borussia Moenchengladbach, the German losing finalists in last year's European Cup as winners Liverpool did not want to play) and the Inter-American Cup against Mexico's America, the champions of the Central, North American and Caribbean Confederation. Boca should take the latter, but their chances in the former do not look bright after they have played both home legs.

Borussia Moenchengladbach held Boca Juniors to a 2-2 draw in Buenos Aires on March 21 and although the second leg is not scheduled until August (just at the beginning of the next German season), Borussia look too clever for the Argentines.

Borussia started the match slowly with square passes almost at walking pace and without attempting to attack. Boca Juniors, who are not an attacking team, just did not know what to do against this, first trying to take the initiative by close marking and then attacking down the wings with their flank defenders, Pernia and Suñe. But a couple of dangerous German counter-attacks soon stopped that, although Boca managed to take the lead through Mastrangelo after 16 minutes.

Then Borussia fought back, again surprising the Argentine team with permanent rotation all over the field, speed and first time passing which they had not expected from the European side, specially after the slow start. Bonhof made his presence felt while Wimmer and Nielsen found more room for their counter attacks as Boca's defence fell to pieces with defenders frequently running into each other. Then Borussia turned the tables with two fast counter attacks within five minutes, ending in goals by Hannes and Bonhof (after 24 and 29 minutes) and the German team left the impression of possessing great skill which they could on whenever they wanted, making the run more while conserving their ene

Boca Juniors came out a different for the second half, probably after a lecture from coach Lorenzo "tactics" soon became evident. Brin on the more penetrating Ribolzi Benitez in front, they went into all attack for the equaliser with hard, ro and intimidating play of the "Loren type of which Nielsen, Lienen and Bon soon fell victims — in some cases when ball was nowhere near — which is reason why few teams are prepared to p in Argentina for this unofficial trophy

Ribolzi's equaliser came within minutes and against this violent soc Borussia decided to defend the draw

No. 3: Some of the coins which have been specially minted for the World Cup Argentina — the face above and the reverse side below.

Price of coming to A

THE world complains that the 1978 World Cup finals are going to be very expensive for fans coming to Argentina — not to mention the media paying expenses for journalists, photographers, TV and radio men, etc.

The "packages" being sold abroad — which is the only way people can buy tickets outside Argentina, cost between 2,000 and 3,000 dollars and include: a) A block of tickets which the buyer may not all want; b) Air return fares which could have been provided cheaper by travel agents organising charter flights, but these will not be allowed in and out of Argentina so as not to compete with the state run Aerolineas Argentinas; c) Accommodation for a minimum of 30 days when many fans do not want, or cannot afford, to stay that long at prices of between 45 and 80 dollars a day even at cheaper and lower class hotels which only a short time earlier are charging less than a third in some cases; d) Excursions which soccer fans may not be interested in and would have preferred not to spend their money on; e) Theatre shows (folklore) which soccer fans may also not be interested in; f) Life insurance (with which the country covers itself in case of accidents, although the fan may have his own life insurance).

Most complaints have come about hotel prices which, in many cases, have been inflated to a level of the best hotels in the world — the Waldorf Astoria in New York or the Paris Hilton — although not offering nearly the same service or aspiring to the same category . . . and the entire "package" does not include a bite to eat.

But the high cost of this "package", which may have put many fans off from coming here, may also have given them the wrong idea of what it is going to cost them to stay here. There are many cheaper hotels, but they are not included in the "package business" on which "Union 78", a tourist organisation, formed by some of the country's leading tourist agencies, holds a monopoly.

While fans may be paying through the nose just for a bed at one of the hotels included in the package, they can eat quite cheaply and well elsewhere for 15 dollars a day — two dollars for breakfast and six dollars ea lunch and a good supper or dinner.

Travelling is also comparatively che bus ride in town costs 10 cents, or 20 most. Going further out to the suburbs, b or bus, will also not cost more than 50 Air fares to the various venues are 25 dol Rosario, 35 dollars to Mar del Plata, 45 d to Cordoba and 60 dollars to Mendoza. or bus it will cost you a quarter of the although it can be a tiring trip with Me needing a full day (24 hours) to get the even the journey to comparatively near M Plata taking seven hours.

While this takes care of the essenti food and transport, fans coming to Arge should be warned that the custo overcharging and short changing tourists industry and many of the "sha businesses" are already getting ready f

Here are a few tips for fans who can affo get here:

WHEN EATING, go to the restaurants frequented by local people and where the priced menu cards. Study them carefully

play for time, again controlling the match to the extent that Boca lost their inspiration in attack with confusing play. This made the final half-hour a yawn as neither team got close to scoring — Borussia because they were not interested and Boca because they could not.

A week later Boca Juniors faced America (Mexico) in their home leg of the Inter-American Cup . . . and it was a picnic in comparison. America, coached by Argentina's Raul Cardenas, played open soccer without emphasis on defence as is the way of away teams in these home and away legs, but they were a class below Boca, showed defensive weaknesses and lost 3-0. The score could have been higher. America had trouble getting past the midfield and spent too much time there. Half De La Torre played well, but when he did get through, his forwards were generally caught off-side. Their best chance came when Victorino was left alone in front of Boca goalkeeper Gatti, but then Uruguayan referee Ramon Barreto discovered an off-side that wasn't there.

Europe South America Cup (1st leg in Buenos Aires, March 22).
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) (1) 2 (Mastrangelo, Riboldi)
BORUSSIA MOENCHENGLADBACH (West Germany) (2) 2 (Hannes, Bonhof)
Boca Juniors: Santos, Perrin, Sa, Mouzo, Bordon, Benitez (Riboldi), Suhe, Zanabria, Mastrangelo, Pavon (Alvarez), Salinas.
Borussia: Kleff, Wohlers, Hannes, Winner (Jener), Vogts, Schaeffer, Bonhof, Kulik, d'Haye, Nielsen, Lienen.
(Referee: Nicola Dudine, Bulgaria)
Inter-American Cup (1st leg in Buenos Aires, March 16)
BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) (1) 3 (Salinas 2, Mastrangelo)
AMERICA (Mexico) 0
Boca Juniors: Gatti, Perrin, Sa, Mouzo, Bordon, Riboldi, Suhe, Zanabria, Mastrangelo, Saldano (Veglio), Salinas.
America: Castrejon, Trujillo, Tena, Sanchez, Galindo, Martinez, De La Torre, Victorino, Kiesse, Ortega, Estupinan, Manzo (Luisinho).
(Referee: Ramón Barreto, Uruguay)

rgentina

work out your bill (adding the 22 per cent cover charge if applicable) before paying it.

FOR A DRINK always go to the big bars with a price list . . . don't rush, they are open all day and most of the night . . . and never venture to the off beat shady bars, commonly known as "Whiskerias", however alluring they look, unless you are prepared to buy the place every time you go in.

WHEN TAKING TAXIS — if you must — be warned that the meter has not been modified continuously to keep up with inflation and the taxi driver is entitled to charge you more, but there is a chart showing the increase over the marked up charge which should be visible to passengers (hanging over the back of the driver's seat). If it is not, and you think you are being overcharged, ask to see it, unless you want to "buy his cab". Also check that the flag is up and the meter is not already running before you get into the cab and count your change carefully when paying.

More next month

ERIC WEIL

LEAGUE TABLES

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	31	21	6	4	70	43	48
Anderlecht	31	19	6	6	61	23	44
Standard	31	18	8	5	64	30	44
Lierse SK	31	18	5	8	60	39	41
Beveren-Waas	31	13	10	8	39	26	36
Beerschot	31	11	13	7	55	39	35
Antwerp	31	13	8	10	44	33	34
RWD Molenbeek	31	13	6	12	51	45	32
Winterslag	31	12	8	11	45	50	32
Waregem	31	11	8	12	41	43	30
Beringen	31	11	7	13	32	42	29
Lokeren	31	9	9	13	44	41	27
SC Charleroi	31	10	5	16	34	51	25
Liege	31	8	9	14	40	44	25
Kortrijk	31	6	12	13	33	45	24
La Louvière	31	7	7	17	26	61	21
CS Bruges	31	4	8	19	21	56	16
Boom	31	4	7	20	28	77	15

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	34	18	9	7	50	25	45
Monaco	34	18	9	7	68	43	45
Marseille	34	18	7	9	63	37	43
Strasbourg	34	16	11	7	61	37	43
St-Etienne	33	17	6	10	43	39	40
Sochaux	34	15	8	11	60	47	38
Nice	34	16	6	12	63	58	38
Bastia	33	16	5	12	48	38	37
Laval	34	15	7	12	46	47	37
Nancy	33	13	8	12	53	46	34
St-Germain	34	12	8	14	67	57	32
Metz	33	12	7	14	36	47	31
Bordeaux	34	12	7	15	44	60	31
Valenciennes	34	11	8	15	45	52	30
Lyon	34	11	6	17	50	51	28
Nimes	34	9	10	15	43	58	28
Troyes	33	9	9	15	37	60	27
Reims	34	8	10	16	30	43	26
Lens	34	9	7	18	50	68	25
Rouen	33	6	4	23	38	77	16

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	30	19	3	8	70	38	41
Barcelona	30	14	9	7	42	25	37
Valencia	30	15	6	9	48	25	36
Gijon	29	13	8	8	47	36	34
Athletic Bilbao	29	13	7	9	50	30	33
Atletico Madrid	30	14	3	13	47	45	31
Salamanca	30	13	5	12	35	35	31
Real Sociedad	30	11	8	11	49	42	30
Sevilla	30	11	8	11	33	39	30
Las Palmas	29	10	9	10	37	37	29
Rayo Vallecano	30	10	9	11	47	53	29
Espanol Barcelona	30	12	5	13	47	56	29
Burgos	30	10	8	12	31	41	28
Hercules Alicante	30	9	9	12	32	37	27
Real Betis	29	9	7	13	45	45	25
Santander	30	8	8	14	26	45	24
Elche	30	10	3	17	37	56	23
Cadiz	30	6	7	17	26	64	19

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	31	20	11	0	71	17	51
Ajax Amsterdam	31	18	8	5	78	33	44
Twente Enschede	31	18	8	5	59	24	44
AZ'67 Alkmaar	31	17	8	6	65	29	42
Sparta Rotterdam	30	13	11	6	45	28	37
Roda JC Kerkrade	31	10	12	9	36	34	32
Volendam	31	11	8	12	45	56	30
Feyenoord	31	9	11	11	46	42	29
Utrecht	31	9	11	11	36	42	29
Vitesse Arnhem	31	8	12	11	45	58	28
NAC Breda	31	9	10	12	34	47	28
Den Haag	31	11	5	15	44	54	27
NEC Nijmegen	31	10	7	14	35	52	27
Haarlem	31	7	11	13	36	49	25
Amsterdam	30	9	7	14	39	62	25
VV Venlo	31	7	10	14	39	64	24
Go Ahead Deventer	31	9	5	17	42	51	23
Telstar Velsen	31	2	7	22	23	76	11

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen	33	20	8	5	59	26	48
Rangers	31	20	6	5	67	38	46
Hibernian	31	14	5	12	44	36	33
Motherwell	33	13	7	13	45	44	33
Dundee United	29	12	8	9	32	23	32
Celtic	30	13	4	13	49	41	30
St. Mirren	32	10	8	14	46	51	28
Partick Thistle	31	11	5	15	39	53	27
Ayr United	31	7	5	19	30	63	19
Clydebank	29	4	6	19	17	53	14

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottingham For.	34	23	8	3	63	21	54
Everton	38	20	10	8	68	42	50
Arsenal	36	18	10	8	53	29	46
Liverpool	35	20	6	9	52	31	46
Manchester City	35	18	9	8	65	41	45
Coventry	37	18	9	10	71	55	45
Leeds	37	17	8	12	58	46	42
West Bromwich	35	14	12	9	50	45	40
Norwich	38	11	16	11	48	57	38
Aston Villa	36	13	10	13	40	37	36
Manchester Utd.	38	13	10	15	59	60	36
Birmingham	37	15	6	16	50	55	36
Derby County	36	12	12	12	46	51	36
Middlesbrough	37	12	12	13	40	50	36
Bristol City	38	11	11	16	47	49	33
Ipswich	35	10	11	14	42	48	31
Chelsea	36	9	12	15	40	59	30
West Ham	38	10	8	20	47	63	28
Wolverhampton	37	9	10	18	43	60	28
Queen's PR	35	6	13	16	39	58	25
Newcastle	36	6	9	21	39	64	21
Leicester	38	4	12	22	21	60	20

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	26	13	12	1	39	13	38
Milan	26	11	12	3	35	21	34
Torino	26	12	10	4	32	19	34
Vicenza	26	11	11	4	40	29	33
Inter	26	11	9	6	27	18	31
Napoli	26	8	11	7	33	26	27
Perugia	26	8	10	8	30	28	26
Verona	26	6	13	7	23	22	25
Atalanta	26	5	15	6	24	26	25
Roma	26	6	11	9	25	28	23
Lazio	26	6	10	10	27	36	22
Genoa	26	5	12	9	22	31	22
Bologna	26	6	9	11	19	31	21
Foggia	26	6	9	11	20	37	21
Fiorentina	26	5	9	12	24	36	19
Pescara	26	3	9	14	18	37	15

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PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	22	17	4	1	64	19	38
Benfica	22	15	7	0	42	8	37
Braga	22	13	4	5	35	19	30
Sporting	22	12	3	7	48	27	27
Belenenses	22	10	7	5	16	16	27
Vit. Guimaraes	22	10	4	8	26	20	24
Academico	22	9	3	10	33	37	21
Boavista	22	7	6	9	24	28	20
Vit. Setubal	22	8	4	10	24	32	20
Varzim	22	7	5	10	22	27	19
Estoril	22	5	6	11	18	32	16
Maritimo	22	5	6	11	16	37	16
Riopele	22	5	6	11	15	36	16
Espinho	22	6	3	13	23	38	15
Portimenense	22	5	4	13	24	34	14
Feirense	22	5	2	15	23	43	12

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Dresden	19	13	4	2	51	18	30
FC Magdeburg	18	12	3	3	35	9	27
Dynamo Berlin	19	10	6	3	37	16	26
Chemie Halle	19	8	7	4	33	22	23
Lok. Leipzig	19	8	4	7	39	27	20
Carl Zeiss Jena	19	8	4	7	32	27	20
Karl-Marx-Stadt	19	5	9	5	27	34	19
Sachsenring Zwickau	19	5	7	7	16	32	17
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	18	5	6	7	17	27	16
Chemie Bohlen	19	4	8	7	24	32	16
Wismut Aue	19	6	4	9	19	35	16
Union Berlin	19	5	5	9	15	27	15
Vorwarts Frankfurt	19	2	9	8	15	23	13
Wismut Gera	19	1	4	14	15	55	6

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria WAC	32	20	9	3	65	29	49
Rapid	32	15	8	9	68	40	38
Sturm Graz	32	11	12	9	46	47	34
SSW Innsbruck	31	13	7	11	44	31	33
Grazer AK	32	9	13	10	42	41	31
Vienna	32	11	7	14	31	47	29
VOeEST Linz	32	8	12	12	37	45	28
Wiener SK/Post	30	7	11	12	38	53	25
Linzer ASK	32	8	9	15	33	55	25
Admira/Wacker	31	7	10	14	38	54	24

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cologne	32	20	4	8	79	40	44
Bor. M'gladbach	32	18	8	6	68	42	44
Hertha BSC	32	14	10	8	56	44	38
VfB Stuttgart	32	16	5	11	55	38	37
Fortuna Dusseldorf	32	14	9	9	45	33	37
Eintr. Frankfurt	32	15	4	13	56	50	34
Hamburger SV	32	14	6	12	57	58	34
Kaiserslautern	32	15	4	13	56	58	34
MSV Duisburg	32	13	7	12	59	58	33
Schalke 04	32	13	6	13	45	51	32
Borussia Dortmund	32	13	5	14	52	56	31
Bayern	32	10	10	12	60	58	30
E. Braunschweig	32	13	4	15	41	50	30
VfL Bochum	32	10	9	13	44	45	29
Werder Bremen	32	13	5	15	43	52	29
Saarbrucken	32	6	10	16	38	66	22
1860 Munich	32	6	8	18	38	58	20
St. Pauli	32	6	6	20	43	78	18

PERU
Regional Championship
North Section

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Huaral	5	2	3	0	9	5	7
Juan Aurich	5	3	1	1	9	5	7
Atletico Torino	5	2	2	1	9	7	6
Deportivo Junin	5	1	4	0	8	7	6
Universitario	5	1	3	1	6	5	5
Sport Boys	5	1	2	2	7	9	4
Sporting Cristal	5	1	1	3	7	13	3
Colegio Nac. Iquitos	5	0	2	3	3	7	2

South Section

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Deportivo Municipal	5	2	3	0	9	5	7
Alfonso Ugarte	5	2	3	0	7	3	7
Coronel Bolognesi	5	2	2	1	5	5	6
Alianza Lima	5	1	3	1	6	4	5
Melgar	5	1	3	1	6	6	5
Defensor Lima	5	1	3	1	3	3	5
Leon de Huanuco	5	0	3	2	3	7	3
Atletico Chalaco	5	0	2	3	6	12	2

BOLIVIA
Major League final round

1) The Strongest 6 pts; 2) Oriente Petrolero, Wilsterman 4; 4) Bolivar 2 (after 4 games).

ARGENTINA
Metropolitan First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Racing	4	3	1	0	7
Gim. La Plata	4	2	2	0	6
Union Sta Fe	4	2	1	1	5
Banfield	4	1	3	0	5
Huracan	4	1	3	0	5
Quilmes	4	2	1	1	5
Velez Sarsfield	4	1	3	0	5
Boca Juniors	4	2	1	1	5
Rosario Cent.	3	1	2	0	4
Estud. Bs Aires	3	1	2	0	4
Argentinos Jun.	4	2	0	2	4
River Plate	4	2	0	2	4
Platense	4	1	2	1	4
Newell's Old Boys	3	0	3	0	3
Colon Sta Fe	4	1	1	2	3
San Lorenzo	4	1	1	2	3
Chac. Jun.	3	0	2	1	2
Independiente	4	1	0	3	2
Atlanta	4	0	2	2	2
All Boys	4	0	2	2	2
Est. La Plata	4	0	0	4	0

CHILE
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	3	3	0	0	7	2	6
Everton	3	2	1	0	12	5	5
Aviacion	3	2	1	0	8	6	5
Audax Italiano	3	2	0	1	7	2	4
O'Higgins	3	2	0	1	4	5	4
Univ. de Chile	3	1	2	0	5	3	4
Palestino	3	2	0	1	7	2	4
Univ. Catolica	3	2	0	1	9	3	4
Lota Schwager	3	2	0	1	8	6	4
Concepcion	3	1	1	1	4	5	3
Rangers	3	1	0	2	3	12	2
Nubiense	3	1	0	2	2	5	2
Union Española	3	1	0	2	6	10	2
Green Cross	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
Colo Colo	3	1	0	2	8	10	2
Huachipato	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Santiago Morning	3	0	0	3	4	9	0
Coquimbo	3	0	0	3	2	6	0

● Continued from page 35

It's an interesting comparison that the day Liverpool's fans were causing trouble, and the day I was studying UEFA's report, Ian Wooldridge of the London *Daily Mail* should have touched on both these subjects of crowd and player discipline in reporting from Buenos Aires on the world hockey cup —

There were, Wooldridge is also at pains to report, plenty of guns and Alsatian dogs evident. So, clearly, that is one price Argentina are prepared to pay for security at stadia. But isn't it possible for football to find a long-term solution to hooliganism without being quite so blunt?

which the Argentines, understandably, are using as a dress rehearsal of the June jamboree.

Of the behaviour of "large, noisy, chauvinistic crowds" watching Argentina beat Peru 2-1, then later Bulgaria 3-1, Wooldridge wrote: "On one thing you could rest assured. You could have taken an aged aunt, your gorgeously-dressed girl-friend, your nine-year-old son, your tiny niece or a babe-in-arms and stood in absolute safety and no discomfort on the terraces."

As for discipline on the field, Woodridge noted that as far as the hockey went "there have certainly been some tempestuous flashpoints, but none has developed into a fracas and never once has an umpire been enveloped by protesting players.

"Hockey's authority is absolute and comes from within. The umpire, right or wrong, is the instant arbiter and to dispute his ruling by anything more than an old-fashioned glance is to find yourself removed from the action for a period of not less than five minutes and probably more."

I've never thought much of the idea of introducing the sin-bin into soccer; but perhaps the Russians or Americans who take such a delight in meddling with the laws, might like to experiment . . . ?

But, it's not all bad. UEFA competition attendances were up 100,000 in 1976-77 — though not thanks to the UEFA Cup which, after several years of growth, showed a drop in attendances for once. The Champions' Cup, of course, remains the big draw, with crowds averaging 30,514. And when you bear in mind some of the low attendances in the first round that's worth noting.

The only problem now is to keep those 30,514 under control . . .

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"The Germans have lost most of their top World Cup stars from 1974. And what is more, there have been no replacements. Today they have no Beckenbauers, Overaths or Mullers. Only Bonhof is world class."

By now most of the players had drifted on to the pitch and were loosening up. Coutinho continued chatting with us until he realised that he should shout some instructions to his assistant Chirol.

Alas Chirol was taking the gentle stroll in a different way, thumping the ball enthusiastically for his own enjoyment into one of the goals. Coutinho eventually drew his attention and clarly this was the moment that a small gathering of European journalists should set a good example and offer their withdrawal.

Good firm handshakes and smiles. There are few of those around for losers. But Coutinho has the look of a winner about him, even if nobody back home will believe it until it happens.

So it was off to the metropolis by courtesy of a charming Dutch couple whose car happily did not pack a dog or even a taxi meter. But one could only imagine the headlines 24 hours later when France ended Brazil's unbeaten run.

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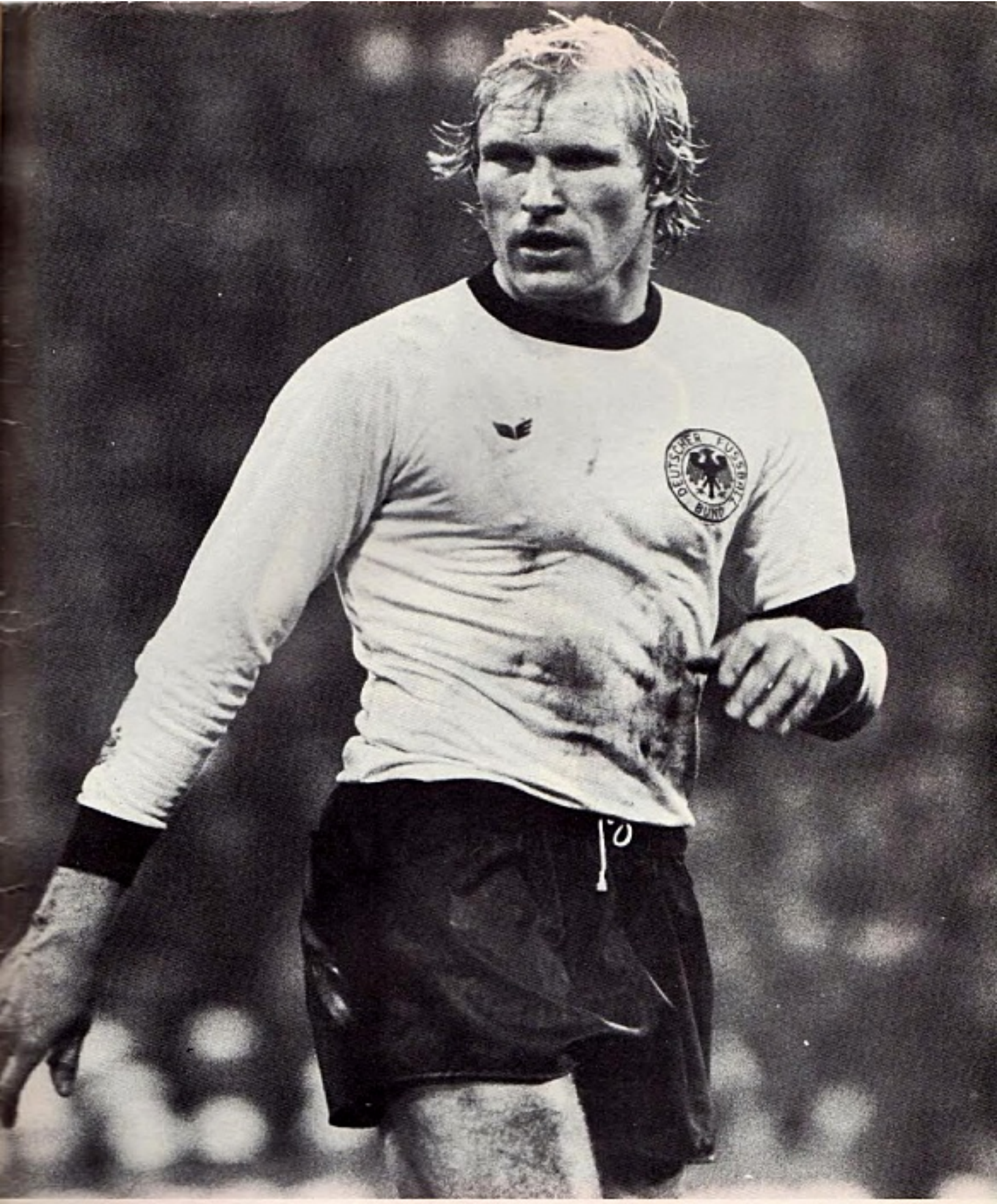

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